

THE GAZETTE

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

Lithium batteries

The airlines are not allowing the post office to accept anything containing lithium batteries for mailing to CONUS or to any destination requiring air travel.

Brussels Auto Skills Center

Brussels Auto Skills Center is re-opened for business and will continue to operate Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, contact the USAG Brussels Auto Skills Center at DSN 368-9743 or civilian 02-717-9743.

Driving Class

An intermediate driver's class for Soldiers under 26 years of age will be held April 25 from 1 to 3:30 p.m., Bldg. 220, room 113 on SHAPE.

POV Orientation Class

Due to the lack of staff at the Driver Training Testing Station Brussels, the Brussels community is invited to take the POV Orientation class at SHAPE. For information, call DSN 366-6603/6175 or civilian 065-32-6603/6175.

Math and Science Showcase

The SHAPE American Elementary school will be hosting a Math and Science Showcase, May 2 from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Brainstorm ideas with your child now. Display boards can be purchased through the student's homeroom teacher.

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Community remembers 1944 aviators



Eric Daniel

Brigitte Rolet, Alderman of the city of Silly, pays respect after laying a wreath at the plaque honoring the crew members of the Royal Flush that crashed in the field behind the plaque, April 13, 1944.

Earth Day tip: Eat local products

Community's remembrance | Continued

By Cis Spook

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

Members of the 309th Airlift Squadron based at Chièvres Air Base joined city officials of Silly and local residents April 13, in a commemorative ceremony honoring the crew members of the B17 Royal Flush that crashed at Fouleng, Silly, 68 years ago.

The B17 Royal Flush was returning from a bombing mission over Schweinfurt, Germany, April 13, 1944, when it was hit by anti-aircraft defense at Chièvres Air Base, then occupied by the Nazis. Four of the crew members were able to bail out prior for the Royal Flush to hit the ground and explode. Six aviators were killed in the explosion: Lt James R. Lavin, pilot, Lt. Louis A. Bendon, co-pilot, Lt. Calvin L. Anthes, bombardier, Sgt. Raymond R. Marz, waist gunner, Sgt. James W. Malone, tail gunner and Sgt. Loyd G. Brady, ball turret gunner.

Among the attendees of the ceremony were several witnesses of the 1944 crash. Ghislain Bonnet was 15 years old at the time and still remembers that day in 1944. "I remember receiving a chocolate bar from the wounded aviator," Bonnet recalls. "In 2000, this aviator named Charlie Johnson, came back to the site and I was very pleased we

were able to meet again," Bonnet added.

Miguel de la Serna, 16 years old in 1944, remembers the sound of the downed aircraft before it touched ground. "I was in the wood adjacent to the field where the aircraft crashed when I heard the aircraft coming down and exploding," de la Serna said. "I also remember seeing one of the aviators' body at some hundred meters from the impact."

The Belgian Resistance fighters were first on site and three of the survivors evaded from capture thanks to their help. Unfortunately, they were not able to rescue the fourth survivor who got injured when getting to the ground as the Nazis rapidly arrived on the scene.

"In April of 1944, the outcome of World War II was still very much in question. If it wasn't for the incredible heroism of the brave men and women of the United States and its Allies, to

include the Belgian resistance, we might live in a very different world," said Lt. Col. Tracy Patterson, Commander 309th Airlift Squadron, at the ceremony. "We should all be grateful to those who fought Nazism for their courage and resilience during this dark time in our history," Patterson added.



Members of the 309th Airlift Squadron pay tribute to the aviators on board of the Royal Flush that, 68 years ago, crashed in a field in Fouleng, Silly, killing six of the ten crew members.

THE GAZETTE

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Earth Day tip: Plant a tree

Do your green act on Earth Day and beyond

By Cis Spook

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

More than one billion people of all nationalities and backgrounds will participate in Earth Day 2012, April 22. This year's theme is *Mobilize the Earth* to stand united for a sustainable future and to call upon individuals, organizations and governments to do their part.

Earth Day marks the anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Protest was the order of the day, but saving the planet was not the cause. People were more concerned about the war raging in Vietnam. At the time, air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity and the industry belching out smoke and sludge had little fear of legal consequences.

The publication of Rachel Carson's New York Times best-seller *Silent Spring* in 1962 set the stage for change. By selling more than 500,000 copies in 24 countries, Carson raised public awareness and concern for living organisms, the environment and public health. Earth Day 1970 capitalized on the emerging consciousness, channeling the energy of the anti-war protest movement and putting environmental concerns front and center.

Since then, Earth Day is meant to raise awareness, to be active and do something positive on the environment. "You could use public transportation or ride your bicycle instead of using your car," said Sabine Schneider, USAG Benelux Environmental Protection Specialist. Little things if adopted by many people can make the difference. "Start buying local products which have less impact on the environment because they don't have to be transported. Instead of buying tomatoes from Spain, buy them locally during the season," Schneider suggested. There are plenty of ideas of things to do to elevate the importance of the environment.

Girls Scouts Junior Troop 84 on SHAPE didn't wait for ideas and took on environmental projects for the Juniors to earn three Girl Scout leadership awards – the Energize Award, the Investigate Award and the Innovate Award. The 9 to 12 years old Girls Scouts created posters on how to save energy. To share their ideas with the SHAPE/Chièvres community, these posters will be displayed at the Chièvres food court throughout this week. With the help of Mélanie Chaballe, USAG Benelux Energy Manager, the Girl Scouts also promoted Earth Hour to raise awareness on the use of energy and how to adopt good practice. "Replacing an incandescent light bulb with an energy-efficient light bulb (LED or CFL), will not only save energy but it will save you on



(From left to right) Céline Ragault, Mélanie Chaballe and Sabine Schneider from the USAG Benelux Environmental Division take a look at the posters made by the Girls Scouts Junior Troop 84 for Earth Day 2012.

the cost of light bulbs as a LED, for instance, lasts 30 times longer than an incandescent light bulb which at the end of one year saves you 30 Euros if only changing one bulb at a rate of 8 hours a day," mentioned Chaballe.

Other green acts are also done at the USAG Benelux level. "We recently planted 60 trees on Caserne Daumerie, Chièvres Air Base and at Brussels," said Céline Ragault, USAG Benelux Natural and Cultural Resources Manager. "Among the species we planted are older species of apple trees that are more resistant to illnesses and to the Belgian

climate. Anyone with access to the installation is encouraged to pick up and taste these apples next September or October," Ragault said. A total of 76 nesting boxes have also been installed at Brussels and at Chièvres in order to increase the biodiversity and keep a balance of the number of birds, she added.

Together, we can make the difference and minimize the negative impact on the environment, reduce trash, make our environment look better not only on Earth Day but every day of the year.

Any ideas you want to share with the community are welcome on the USAG Benelux Facebook page at www.facebook.com/USAGBenelux. You can also let us know what your green act will be for Earth Day and beyond.



Drawing by Gillian Bowers from the Girls Scouts Junior Troop 84

Earth Day tip: Pick up trash**Sharing Earth Day and best practices makes us all winners****By Tom Budzyna**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

As Army garrisons in the Netherlands and Belgium reshape into a leaner organization under USAG Benelux, best practices that protect the environment are being shared as Earth Day 2012 approaches.

USAG Schinnen, to be re-designated the Tri-Border Area Support Team this summer, is home to a team of environmental waste and hazardous material experts who are making big impacts despite the relatively small size of their installations - and on April 20, 2012, students from the AFNORTH International School will enjoy a comprehensive program to celebrate.

USAG Schinnen successfully passed an Environmental Performance Assessment System (EPAS) inspection 2009, setting the stage to apply lessons learned throughout the Benelux region in 2012.

"Controlling hazardous materials and what I call 'environmental communication' is the key to controlling and limiting waste," said Mr. Ray Bryant, USAG Schinnen's hazardous materials expert.

Bryant's environmental communication efforts range from sharing his expertise to students during Earth Day activities to continuously reminding leaders about basic 'HAZMAT' training requirements.

"If your government purchase cardholder has not completed a 2-hour HAZMAT (hazardous materials) management class, then they cannot legally purchase ink or toner for their printers. Unless they've taken the class, a person should not even be removing and installing printer toner cartridges. It's the law and it's about personal and environmental safety too," says Bryant.

Training classes and assistance visits have increased for Mr. Bryant as he shares his methods with others, and personnel attending the training quickly link how their efforts can lead to a safer environment.

The 2-hour class details simple and required processes to



Ray Bryant (left) instructs students about hazardous waste and recycling during USAG Schinnen's Earth Day April 22, 2010. This year's celebration on USAG Schinnen occurs April 20, 2012.

ensure hazardous waste is tracked from the moment it enters the workplace to the time it leaves. Like property management, a bar code labeling and tracking system is used.

Personnel who have more common and direct contact with hazardous materials are required to take longer, more involved training courses.

"We offer 32-hour training, 8-hour refresher class, a 2-hour refresher class as well as providing assistance visits," Bryant said.

"Enforcing training requirements along with follow-up inspections really helped us manage costs and the amount of hazardous waste we produce. "In 2003, our tiny garrison produced more than 53 tons of hazardous waste. In 2012, we'll have less than 23 tons," said Bryant.

This accomplishment is, in part, to the shrinking size of the community but also in a big way attributable to eliminating or strictly controlling the hazardous waste on the base.

"I'm looking forward to April 20 when we celebrate Earth Day on USAG Schinnen. We'll have school children here and I'll be teaching them a thing or two about recycling. I like Earth Day and teaching the children. When we're all involved we all become strategic partners to the environment and our Army. Everyone wins," said Bryant.

Earth Day tip: Take public transportation

Local shelter for battered women is in need of a dryer

By Pam Giacomello

International Charity Chapel Council (IC3)

Some of us may remember helping mom peg bed sheets onto long clothes lines strung between posts in backyards. Upon coming to Europe, I've seen clothes hung on umbrella trees poked into lawns. But, charity homes, where there may be many children, must use clothes' dryers. SHAPE's International Charity Chapel Council (IC3), has identified a need for one of these now.

Le Kangourou, a "Maison Maternelle or Home for Battered Women" (although they will take men), currently houses 16 children (1 mo - 12 yrs old) and 11 adults, made vulnerable by threats of violence or homelessness. They have only one working washing washer and dryer. Le Kangourou came to the attention of the IC3 in March of last year, when Tommy Temple introduced us. Staff salaries, including care of infants/toddlers, and a food budget is provided by the Belgian government. Families are given one sleeping room - they cook and eat their meals together, share a living room, toilets/showers and a small garden for the children to play. Donations to Tommy's Charity Garage, as well as food dropped into the SHAPE HEART box, has been helping them for the past couple of years. Private fundraising pays for utilities and special needs.

IC3 saw an opportunity to help. Our first project was to match a pre-teen group who were willing to do some cleaning. One Saturday last August, volunteers from Club Beyond, scrubbed the kitchen, prepared a room for a new family and weeded the play area.

This past Christmas, the Spanish Ladies Association donated new mattress protectors and sheets. A group of SHAPE ladies brought bags of diapers and children's toiletries. The children also met Sint Nicholas, many for the first time, with Jaye-Lynn Stapeleton and members of the Family Readiness Group 39th Signal Battalion. Each child received a pair of new pyjamas, Christmas candy and everyone enjoyed a potluck supper of soup, sandwiches and Christmas desserts.

IC3 has received a promise of the purchase of a new washing machine by the "King Leopold 1st Lodge Number 3", and has been been invited to fundraise at the 45th

Anniversary of the Girls Night Out event, 6 to 10 p.m. April 24. The money raised will be used to purchase a dryer. To purchase the model needed, we need to raise € 350.00.

If you want to donate, come and see us at the SHAPE Club, April 24 for Girls Night Out and look for the Kangaroo jar.



Picture of a family room at the battered women's shelter



Lilliane, staff member of Le Kangourou, the battered women's shelter

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www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil

Earth Day tip: Eat seasonal products

"I want to see the firefighters!"

By Donovan Abrassart
USAG Benelux Public Affairs

Two times this week, the Airmen of the 309th Airlift Squadron Fire Department and the air controllers offered a tour of their installations and explained to local kids what their daily job is. Both the airmen and the air controllers took the time to answer each of their questions. The kids were literally starry-eyed by what they saw during their visit and couldn't stop asking questions to their hosts, wanting to know everything about their job before leaving the base. One of the kids was particularly excited by the visit at the fire department and upon arrival on base, he couldn't stop asking the same question with a big smile on his face: "Are we going to see the firefighters? I want to



see the firefighters!"

It is not the first time that these visits are organized and there will be others. Every day, our Soldiers get to meet local people but don't necessarily have the opportunity to talk with them for many reasons such as the language barrier. Living side by side, they run across each other and, sometimes, don't even have the possibility to share moments together. This kind of visits is a real opportunity to strengthen the links between the two communities and a chance for them to get to know each other better.

Senior Airman Arthur J. Moore showing the inside of a fire truck to local kids

Glaucoma, the sneak thief of sight

Special to the Gazette

Although not preventable, glaucoma can be treated if detected early

Glaucoma – often called “the sneak thief of sight” because it can strike without pain or other symptoms – is one of the leading causes of blindness in the world. Unfortunately, the vast majority of people – 91 percent – incorrectly believe glaucoma is preventable, according to the newest survey. Although glaucoma is not preventable, if diagnosed and treated early, doctors of optometry can help a patient control the disease. Medication or surgery can slow or prevent further vision loss.

Glaucoma is part of a group of eye disorders that occur when internal pressure in the eye increases enough to cause damage to the optic nerve, leading to loss of nerve tissue, resulting in vision loss. The AOA's annual Eye-Q® survey, which identifies attitudes and behaviors of people regarding eye care and related issues, showed that a large number of consumers do not know what glaucoma is and how severe the effects of the disease can be. Ninety-five percent of respondents did not know that glaucoma damages the optic nerve, and only 21 percent of respondents were aware that glaucoma causes deterioration of peripheral or side vision.

According to the AOA, there are two types of glaucoma. The most common type, primary open-angle glaucoma,

develops gradually and painlessly, usually without symptoms. A rarer type, acute angle-closure glaucoma, occurs rapidly, and its symptoms may include blurred vision, loss of peripheral vision, seeing colored rings around lights, and pain or redness in the eyes.

“As glaucoma progresses, a person may notice their side vision gradually failing,” said Kerry Beebe, O.D., Chair of AOA's Clinical Care Group Executive Committee. “When glaucoma remains untreated, people may miss seeing

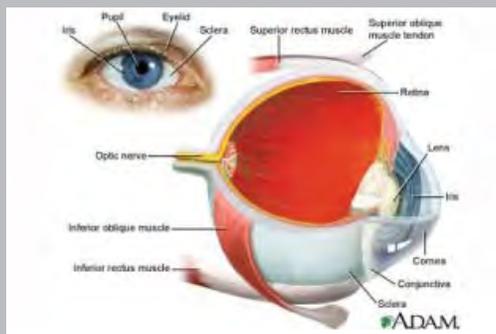
objects to the side and out of the corner of their eye. Without treatment, people with glaucoma will continue to slowly lose their peripheral vision, and eventually their central vision as well. And vision lost to glaucoma cannot be recovered, so early detection and treatment is paramount.”

Anyone can develop glaucoma. However, some people are at higher risk than others. They include:

- African-Americans over age 40
- Anyone age 60 and older, especially Hispanics
- People with a family history of glaucoma

Treatment for glaucoma includes prescription eye drops and medicines to lower pressure in the eyes. In some cases, laser treatment or surgery may be effective in reducing pressure.

For additional information on glaucoma and other issues concerning eye health, please visit www.aoa.org.



Earth Day tip: Reduce waste

Adventure Camp Club Beyond Style

Special to the Gazette

This past week Chapel Youth from military bases all around Europe met at Durbuy Adventure Camp in Durbuy, Belgium for the annual MCYM (Military Community Youth Ministries) Club Beyond middle school spring retreat. According to John Malmquist the SHAPE Club Beyond community director, "Around 400 middle school students from all over Europe spent five days rock climbing, caving, playing laser tag, driving go carts, mountain biking and challenging themselves on four different ropes courses." The theme of this year's camp was "choices". The purpose of this year's camp was to help students overcome different anxieties and fears as well as giving them a strategy for making good lifestyle choices. Ultimately Club Beyond introduces students to Jesus Christ and encourage them to live a committed life loving God and serving others.



(Picture top left, from left to right) Joe Milner shows Elijah Francois how to put on specific equipment. (Picture on the right) Rock climbing was one of the many activities scheduled during the five days Club Beyond Spring retreat. (Picture center) Bradley Malmquist slides down the rope. (Picture above, from left to right) Alexys Seller, Corina Ciobanu, Chase Dubose, Natalie Wadas, Jacqueline Workman, Aaron Malmquist and Bradley Malmquist in the back were some of the students participating to Adventure Camp. (Photos by John Malmquist)

Earth Day tip: Go for a walk**Drinking and driving: it's not a new problem**

By Dr. Trish Prosser, Psychologist
U.S. Army Public Health Command

Drunk driving actually began before the invention of cars. As soon as a person climbed onto the back of another animal, there must have been drunken horse, camel and elephant riders. Drinking played a large role in going to sea also.

Alcohol has played an important part in human civilization for a long time. Historians believe that slaves building the Great Pyramid at Giza drank about 1-1/2 gallons of beer a day. A daily task in Egyptian households was brewing beer, while the pharaohs preferred to drink wine. It is easy to imagine drunken chariot riders in Rome, and there is no doubt that some of Hannibal's men rode drunkenly on elephants into battle.

The collection, processing and distribution of water actually developed in the 20th century. Before then, a constant source of fresh and clean water was harder to come by. Stored water without modern techniques quickly stagnates. One hundred years ago, diseases like cholera and typhoid were spread through contaminated water, killing hundreds of thousands. Alcohol was used as an alternative to water because most germs and viruses that lived in water could not survive in alcohol. It comes as no surprise that alcohol was widely used as medicine, to kill germs and dull pain.

The first actual drunk driving arrest was made in 1897 in London when a man ran his car into a building. Before this time and for many decades after, automobiles and their owners were not regulated in any way. In the United States, it was not until 1910 that the first drunk driving laws were adopted in New York, but these laws merely stated that one should not drive a motor vehicle while inebriated, which was not clearly defined. In 1939, Indiana introduced the first Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) level to determine if a driver was drunk. This

level was set at .15, which is nearly twice today's .08 national legal limit.

In the 1980s, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) came to prominence, ignition interlock devices began to be court ordered and the national minimum legal drinking age was set at 21. In 1989, the Exxon Valdez grounded on Bligh Reef, releasing around 11 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound, arguably the worst environmental disaster until the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The responsibility for the Exxon Valdez accident was blamed on a drunken ship's master. Clearly, alcohol and boats, like alcohol and cars, are not a good combination.

It was not until July 2004 that the entire United States adopted a universal BAC level of .08 as the national standard for drinking and driving. Army Regulation 600-85 states "abuse of alcohol ... is inconsistent with Army Values."

For thousands of years, alcohol has been an important part of our culture and our existence. While there has been an awareness that drunkenness is a bad thing, moderation has been tolerated due to the fact that at times in our history alcohol was literally seen to be as important as water. Our modern life is so different from that of an Egyptian slave or a Roman charioteer or a medieval farmer, and yet our attitudes towards alcohol largely remain the same. Drunk driving has been around a long time, but the common message seems to be that if you have to go somewhere, don't overindulge. So rethink that drink.

For more information on preventing drinking and driving, visit: www.apd.army.mil, www.drinkinganddriving.org/Articles/historyof.html, www.dontdiedrunk.org.

Drink-Driving Laws

In Belgium - Limit is at 0.5 milligrams of alcohol per milliliter of blood

In UK - Limit is at 0.8

In the Netherlands- Limit is at 0.5

In Luxembourg - Limit is at 0.8

In France - Limit is at 0.5

In Germany Limit is at 0.5

In Italy - Limit is at 0.5

Have Something for the Gazette?

Email usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil

Earth Day tip: Change a regular light bulb for a led**community briefs - community briefs - community briefs****Employment opportunity****AFCU Employment Opportunity**

Effective immediately, Andrews Federal Credit Union is offering the following career opportunities in area branches:

- Chièvres Branch at Chièvres Air Force Base, Belgium:
 - Member Services Representative (Two Full-time Positions)
 - Senior Teller (Full-time)
- USAG Benelux, Brussels Branch, Belgium:
 - Branch Manager (Full-time)
 - Member Service Representative (Two Part-time Positions)
- Schinnen Branch, The Netherlands:
 - Member Services Representatives (Two Full-time Positions)
 - Member Services Representative (one part-time Position)
- Chièvres Air Force Base and Benelux Region:
 - Member Services Representative/Teller Floater (Full-time)

For these and other positions or to apply online, visit www.andrewsfcu.org. All applicants must have a U.S. Passport with logistical support. Andrews Federal Credit Union is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

10th annual Make A Wish 24 hours 11-12 May

Starts at 4 p.m. If you want to volunteer, be a food vendor or participate, contact DSN 423-5325.

Army Traffic Safety Training Program

- MSF Experienced Rider Course at the classroom Bldg. 134, CAB / Range Training April 26 (1 day / 8 hours), June 21 (1 day / 8 hours), September 20 (1 day / 8 hours)
- Intermediate Driver Course (under 26) at the classroom Bldg. 220, SHAPE. For all Soldiers under 26-years-old, including non-drivers, April 25 (2.5 hours), July 25 (2.5 hours), October 24 (2.5 hours)

Registration for all courses will close ten calendar days prior to the scheduled training. For MSF program information and course visit www.imcom-europe.army.mil/webs/sites/staff_org/safety/atstp/index.html. To enroll in a course, online registration is mandatory at https://apps.imcom.army.mil/AIRS/usg_disclaimer.aspx. For further assistance, call the USAG Benelux Safety Office at DSN 361-1470.

Safety Stand Down Day

The USAG Benelux Safety Office is organizing a safety stand down day May 3. The event will be held at the Community Recreation Center (CRC), Hangar 4, Chièvres Air Base, from 9 a.m. through noon. The tentative program includes various classes on traffic safety, motorcycle safety, drivers' behavior, emergency procedures and more. Besides the classes, several booths will be available from the Federal Police (home watch program), ACS, OH, DTS, ASAP, EEO, ISO, inside the CRC, as well as a driver's simulator. You will also be able to try the Roll Over Car outside the CRC. A bicycle rodeo will be available for children, as well as, several vehicles on static display to include a fire truck

from the U.S. Air Force and the City of Chièvres, where you can actually try to operate a fire hose. In the afternoon, while those various equipment and vehicles will remain on display, a motorcycle safety class will start at 1 p.m. and will be followed by a ride out under the supervision of the Federal Police Motorcycle instructor. Per the Deputy Garrison Commander's guidance, USAG Benelux Soldiers and employees are all invited and encouraged to attend the safety day during a 2-hour block in the morning, subject to supervisor's approval. Supervisors are strongly encouraged to allow their personnel to attend the safety day and support this community event that is also open to all personnel from other units in the community. For more information on this important event that can make your life safer, contact the USAG Benelux Safety Office at DSN 361-1470/5561 or civilian 068-27-5561.

Education**FAST Class**

Enrollment for the Functional Academic Skills Training Class is going on now. This class is held Monday through Friday, from May 2 through 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information contact the SHAPE Education Center. Bldg. 212 room 128 at DSN 423-3466 or civilian 065-44-3466.

CYSS**Summer camp**

The School Age Center is offering 10 weeks of action packed activities for children ages 6-12. The campers will have the opportunity to join a variety of clubs, engage in different rotating activities with their peers, and explore a wide range of sessions. Rotating activities include swimming at SHAPE Pool and trips to the SHAPE Library. Outside activities will also be offered on a daily basis in combination with individual and team games.

Field trips are subject to change due to availability and weather conditions. CYSS Free Annual Registration, Health Assessment and Immunization Records are required prior to registration. Registration starts April 16 for all families currently enrolled at the School Age Center and May 2 to the whole community. 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). The spaces available for Summer Camp will be given on a first-come first-served basis. The registration process is very flexible and you are able to sign up week by week, up to eight weeks at a time. The camp fees are based on your Total Family Income. There will be no additional costs for special events, field trips or meals. For information call Parent Central Services DSN 423-5612 or civilian 065445612 or School Age Center DSN 423-6079 or civilian 065446079 or visit <http://usagbeneluxcyss.blogspot.com> or <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/shapecym.html>.

Earth Day tip: Recycle

||| = BENELUX NEWS ||| = ||| = BENELUX NEWS ||| =

Abercrombie & Fitch may open store in Amsterdam

There is a serious chance that American clothing group Abercrombie & Fitch may open its first store in Amsterdam. A spokesperson for the Ohio based clothing group said the company is planning to open a shop in Amsterdam this autumn.

Recycling in Belgium

Belgium does very well in terms of managing its garbage, with only 1 percent of its garbage ending up in a dump – which compares with 100 percent in Bulgaria, 86 percent in Malta, and 82 percent in Greece. Each Belgian on average generates 466 kilograms of garbage per year of which 37 percent is burnt, 40 percent recycled, and 22 percent composted. Belgium could still do better especially on decreasing the volume of garbage being burnt, as the European objective is a maximum of 20 percent burnt in incinerators.

Dutch real estate

Just 1,100 new homes are being bought every month, compared to 4,000 before the economic crisis began. House prices were down 6% in the first quarter of 2012 compared to 2011. The average price paid for a home is now €214,000, compared to over €228,000 a year ago. Some 170,000 houses are currently for sale, more than double the total before the crisis.

European Green Capital in 2014

Brussels will not be the European Green Capital in 2014 since the short list was decided yesterday and includes Bristol, Copenhagen, and Frankfurt. Brussels should not be ashamed as it finishes 5th on a list of 18 cities, i.e. after the three cities listed above and Rotterdam but ahead of Ghent and Antwerp, which were also candidates, and ahead of Vienna, which has a good environmental record.

Belgians on the Titanic

The Titanic that sank off the coast of Labrador and Newfoundland April 15, 1912, had 27 Belgians on board, of which only 7 survived the disaster. Most of the 27 Belgians were from West or East Flanders, and most of them were workers who decided to try their luck overseas hoping to find a better future, as they were confronted with a

heavy economic crisis in Belgium. Of the 27 Belgians, 25 boarded the Titanic as passengers. Two Belgians worked on the Titanic: Georges Aspeslagh from Ostend worked in the first class restaurant, while Georges Krins from Liège was a musician who played the violin in the little Titanic orchestra. Both of them had no chance to survive. The poor Van Impe family from Kerksken, near Aalst, couldn't afford the tickets but decided to sell everything they had in order to pay for the trip. Jean-Baptist Van Impe, his wife Rosalie Govaert and their daughter Catharina all perished in the disaster. Two Belgians travelled in first class: cabaret actress and singer Bertha Mayné and the Jewish diamond trader Jacob Birnbaum.

Lady Gaga's concert in Antwerpen

Tickets for Lady Gaga's concert in Antwerpen on September 29 sold out in just 40 minutes. Extra Belgian dates may be added to Lady Gaga's tour. A waiting list has been opened for those who were unable to secure tickets for the September 29 concert.

Dutch National football team

Oranje, the Dutch national football team has fallen from second to fourth place in the latest Fifa world rankings. Germany and Uruguay have overtaken Oranje while Spain remains in first place.

Diplomats leave 600 parking fines unpaid

Diplomats in The Hague, the Netherlands, failed to pay half the 1,200 parking tickets they were given last year. In total, the city council is missing out more than €30,000 in unpaid fines but is unable to press for payment because of diplomatic immunity rules.

Two gangsters escape from Arlon prison

Last Friday's night, two dangerous gangsters escaped from the Arlon Prison in Luxembourg province. After the evening walk, the two detainees attacked the prison wardens, using razor blades as weapons. Two guards were held hostage and both got injured. One prison guard was hit in the face, the other in the throat. One of them was in intensive care, but they are not in a life-threatening condition. Because of this event, a strike has broken out in prisons across Wal-



KEEPING YOU CONNECTED
The Official Website of the American Forces Network Benelux

benelux.afneurope.net

Brussels: 101.7 FM – Chièvres 107.9 FM – SHAPE 106.5 FM and 104.2 FM

Earth Day tip: Ride your bicycle

Host Nation Events & Happenings



This column is events within close distance to Chièvres, SHAPE, Brussels.

Through 17 April

- **Brussels International festival of Fantasy Thriller & Science-Fiction Films** – during the two weeks, over 150 movies will be shown, the majority of them as previews. The majority of the movies are shown at Tour & Taxis on Avenue du port 86 in Brussels but some will also be shown at Plaza Art, Rue de Nimy in Mons. For a detailed schedule, check www.festivalfantastique.org/festival/.

Through 6 May

- **Royal Greenhouses in Laken (entrance on Avenue du Parc royal) open to the public.** Open from 8 to 10 p.m. on 13 April. Then the opening schedule will be as followed: from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Tuesdays to Thursdays; from 1 to 4 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m. on Fridays; and from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Closed on Mondays. Entrance fee is €2.50 per adult and free of charge for all under 18 years old.

Through 20 May

- **Painting exhibition “Per Kirkeby and the forbidden paintings of Kurt Schwitters”** in Brussels at the Fine Arts Museum BOZAR on Rue Ravenstein 23. Closed on Monday, open the other days from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and to 9 p.m. on Thursday. Entrance fee is €10. More info on www.bozar.be/activity.php?id=11527&lng=en.

Through 3 June

- **Exhibition “Dinner's Served! From Field to Plate”** - An exhibition that asks today the questions for tomorrow with a rich scenography. A multi-modal museography: graphic frescoes, audiovisual productions, exceptional items, photographs, electro-mechanical interactive displays, windows of discovery, tactile monitors etc. Contemporary art works mark out the exhibition halls. More information on www.expo-atable.be.

Through 11 June

- **Paintings Exhibition in Tournai at the Fine Arts Museum on Enclos Saint-Martin.** You'll have the opportunity to admire 100 paintings from Manet to Monet, Seurat or Van Gogh, among others. Open every day from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. except on Tuesday. Price ranges from €1 to €2.5.

Through 1 July

- **Display “Stanley Kubrick, Photographer” in Brussels,** Musées royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique on Rue de la Régence, 3. The display is showing the first creative works of Stanley Kubrick. Opening hours are Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

19-22 April

- **Art Brussels (contemporary art fair) in Brussels** from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Brussels Expo (palais 1-3). Entrance fee is €15.



This column is events within close distance from Brunssum and Schinnen

Through 22 April

- **Art & Antiques Fair at Brabanthallen** on Diezekade in 's Hertogenbosch (NL) also known as Den Bosch is the oldest antique fair in the country and has vendors from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Entry: €15.
- **The Netherlands' world famous Keukenhof Gardens** near the town of Lisse (NL) opens its gates again to show an unprecedented wealth of spectacular floral displays planted in endless varieties among beautiful works of art. This year the international flower exhibition has chosen “Poland – Heart of Europe” as its central theme. The Keukenhof is open daily 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Ticket office closes at 6 p.m. Entry: €15; children age 4 to 11, €7. More info in English: www.keukenhof.nl.
- **Art Cologne 2012** is a large art fair held at Die Messe on Messeplatz 1 in Cologne (GE). Open daily from noon to 8 p.m. Entry: €20. More info: www.artcologne.de.
- **Art & Antiques Fair** at Brabanthallen on Diezekade in 's Hertogenbosch (NL) also known as Den Bosch is the oldest antique fair in the country and has vendors from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Entry: €15.

20-22 April

- **Spring Fair** with regional products, music and demonstrations in rural Netherlands at the Family van Asch Farm on Hoevensweg 5 in Enspijk. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €6 for children 11 and €1 for children under 11.
- **Elft Fantasy Fair** - weekend with lots of magic, rattling of swords, various international celebrities, witches and other fantasy figures at Castle de Haar, Kasteellaan in Haarzuilens. Open both days 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Entry: €20; children (-11) free.

21-23 April

- **Trolls and Legends Festival** is a fantasy event with shows, exhibitions, concerts a magic market and lots more at Lotto Mons Expo, Avenue Edison in Mons (BE). Entry is €5.

22 April

- **Antiques & Flea Market** at the inner court of Castle Limbricht, Allee 1 in Limbricht (NL) near Sittard (NL). Open: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry: €2.

22 April

- **Military Fair** at Ciney Expo in Ciney (BE) with 400 stands filled with books, medals, uniforms, and more all to do with the military

Earth Day tip: Turn off the light



20-22 April

- **Organic food fair in Brussels** from 10 a.m to 7 p.m. at the Tour et Taxis site. (150 booths)

20-22 April continued

- **Plants exhibition and fair in Celles** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Rue de la Feuillerie 1. Entrance fee is €8.
- **Provençal market in Bierges** from 2 to 7 p.m. on Avenue des Combattants.

21 April

- **Volksmarch in Brussels** for 8, 16, 22 km. Departure is from Boulevard des Invalides 224 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Ladeuze** for 5, 10, 15, 20 km. Departure is from Rue de la Liberté 23 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

21-22 April

- **Flea market in Ganshoren** from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Quartier Duc Jean
- **Mountain bike ride for kids in Mons.** Departure is from Rue de l'Héribus at 1 p.m. Showers and bike-wash available.

22 April

- **Flea market in Braine-L'Alleud** from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Avenue de la Croix-Rouge.
- **Flea market, crafts and collection fair in Helecine** from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Château. (280 booths)
- **Flea market in Jette** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Rue F. Lenoir.
- **Flea market in Limal** from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the center and at the train station. (220 booths)
- **Flea market in Mons** from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Grand Large. (300 booths)
- **Flea market in Ressaix** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Rue Primevères.
- **Night flea market and crafts fair in Soignies** from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Parc Pater. (100 booths)
- **Flea market in Trivières** from noon to 8 p.m. on the square.
- **Volksmarch in Archennes** for 4, 7, 12, 21, 30 km. Departure is from the Rue des Moulins 10 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Mountain bike ride in Haacht** for 10, 20, 40 km. Departure is from Hoogveld 1 at 8 a.m. Showers and bike-wash available. Participating fee ranges from €2.50 to €3.50. (1899 participants in 2011)
- **Mountain bike ride in Lot** for 35 and 55 km. Departure is from the Sports center on Dworpsestraat 147 from 8 to 11 a.m. Showers and bike wash available.
- **Mountain bike ride in Lasne** for 10, 20 and 40 km. Departure is from the sports center on Rue de Colinet 11 at 8.30 a.m. Showers and bike-wash available. Price ranges from €3 to €5.
- **Mountain bike ride in Solre-Sur-Sambre** for 15, 30, 40 km. Departure is from the Place du Château Fort from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Bike-wash available. Participating fee is €5.
- **Mountain bike ride in Mons** for 15, 31, 51, 66, 75, 84 km. Departure is from the Rue de l'Héribus from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Showers and bike-wash available. (735 participants in 2011)
- **Mountain bike ride in Waudrez** for 20, 30, 40 km. Departure is from the Rue de la Résistance from 8 to 10 a.m. Bike-wash available. Participating fee is €5. (200 participants in 2011).
- **Mountain bike ride in Huissignies** for 25, 45, 60, 80, 100 km. Departure is from the Rue de l'Eglise from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Showers and bike-wash available.



Courtesy Photo



Donovan Abrassart

Earth Day tip: Clean up an area**SHAPE Trips & Tours**

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

- **Keukenhof, April 21** - The first stop will be at Gouda, the cheese capital of the Netherlands. After lunch, visit Keukenhof, the tulip capital of the world. Spend the day admiring flowers displays, strolling through the gardens and photographing beautiful sceneries. Keukenhof is one of the most beautiful places in the world. Prices: Adult €50 Youth (4-11) €43 Child (0-3) €35. Departs SHAPE at 7 a.m. and Brussels at 8 a.m. Returns Brussels at 10 p.m. and SHAPE at 11 p.m. Price includes entrance to the gardens.
- **War Horse/London overnight, April 24-25 - only 2 Seats Left** - Experience "War Horse", the sell-out production at the New London Theatre. There are only 15 seats available for this winner of five Tony Awards, including Best Play. In this production, life-sized puppets depict a journey through history, as a young man embarks on an odyssey to find his beloved horse during World War I. After your theater experience explore the attractions of London: Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, Trafalgar Square, Tower Bridge, and the West End theatre district. Prices: €265 pp single, €215 pp Double/Twin, €180 Children (3-12) (when accompanied by 2 full paying adults). Departs SHAPE Tuesday at 6 a.m. Returns SHAPE Wednesday at 10:30 p.m. No Brussels pick-up.
- **Dover Castle & Canterbury, April 28** - Have a view of the White Cliffs of Dover while crossing the English Channel. Visit the castle, its grounds and secret war tunnels. The trip continues to Canterbury where you can see the Cathedral, Canterbury Tales and many other attractions. Price: €75 adult, €70 child (5-15), €55 child (0-5). Departs SHAPE Saturday at 5:15 a.m. Returns SHAPE Sunday at 1 a.m. Departs Brussels at 4 a.m. Returns Brussels at 2 a.m.

SHAPE Travel Group

For information on the trips below call civilian 065-336560

*Travel Group members are available every Wednesday and Friday
from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Foyer of the SHAPE Library, Bldg. 307.*

- **Delft & Keukenhof, April 26** - Tour the Royal Delft Factory to see how the beautiful blue and white porcelain is made. After some shopping and lunch, tiptoe through the tulips in Keukenhof. Tour and entrance to Keukenhof are included in the price of €45.

Schinnen Trips and Tours

*For information on the trips below
call DSN 360-7561 or civilian 0031-(0)46-4437561*

- **Keukenhof, April 21** - Visit the Netherlands' world famous Keukenhof Gardens near the town of Lisse (NL) and enjoy an unprecedented wealth of spectacular floral displays planted in endless varieties among beautiful works of art. This year, the international flower exhibition has chosen "Poland - Heart of Europe" as its central theme. In the 15th century, the area where Keukenhof is located was still unspoiled nature and part of the estate of Jacqueline of Bavaria, Countess of Holland. She used the lands for hunting and her kitchen staff gathered herbs here - the Dutch name 'Keukenhof' means kitchen garden. Prices: Adult €59 Youth (4-11) €55 Child (0-3) €45. Assigned seating on first-come & pay basis. Register with full payment by April 13 at the Trips & Tours office located inside the Andre Bruls Fitness Center in Schinnen.
- **Day Trip to Amsterdam, May 12** - Visit the always interesting and bubbly capital of the Netherlands. Round trip luxury motor coach transportation departs Schinnen at 7 a.m. and arrival in Amsterdam at approximately 10 a.m. Depart Amsterdam at 6 p.m. and expected to be back in Schinnen at around 9 p.m. Price per person is \$49. Assigned seating on first come & pay basis. Register with full payment by May 4 at the Trips & Tours office located inside the Andre Bruls Fitness Center in Schinnen. The trip requires a minimum of 35 participants. For more info call DSN 360-7561 or civilian 0031 (0)46-4437561.

Earth Day tip: Turn off the heat

For recurring events check on www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/sites/local/pages/gazette/GazetteExtra.pdf.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY**

16 April

- **HHC FRG Luncheon** - Meets at Daumerie Chapel on Daumerie Caserne from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The intend is to raise money for the Family Readiness Group, the price is as much as you may want to give. Food: soft tortilla shells, taco beef, taco shredded chicken, refried beans, black beans, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, shredded cheeses, salsa, sour cream/guacamole.

17-18 April

- **Family Readiness Group Conference** - Join FRG leaders, volunteers and the Commander to discuss FRG 101, regulations and fundraising, FRG Best Practices, Community Resources and more at the Chapel Fellowship Hall from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Limited childcare is available on a first-come, first-serve basis, to include after school care. Contact ACS at DSN 423-5324 or civilian 065-44-5324.

18 April

- **Breastfeeding Support Group** - meets from 10 to 11 a.m. in the SHAPE Healthcare Facility second floor conference room. Feeding concerns are discussed in a supportive environment with a certified Lactation Consultant. All pregnant and breastfeeding mothers are invited to take part in the meeting.

20 April

- **Take Back the Night** - The Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) Campaign activity "Take Back the Night 5.5K Run" starts in the SHAPE Library parking lot at 3:45 p.m. with the opening remarks by Command Sgt. Maj. Allan K. Fairley. Registration and t-shirt pick up starts at 3 p.m. Each participant will receive a free t-shirt while supplies last. This activity is held in order to raise awareness and promote the prevention of sexual violence.
- **Zumba Fitness Party** - At the SHAPE Events Center from 7 to 8:45 p.m. Come dressed in your flag colors. Price is €5 in advance, €10 at the door. More information at www.facebook.com/ZumbaWithNandN.
- **Girls Just Wanna Have Fun** - at the SHAPE Youth Center from 7 p.m. to midnight. Open to girls from 1st to 12th grade. Participating fee is \$20. Sign-up at Parent Central Services, Bldg. 503. Limited space.

21 April

- **Family Fun Night** - Enjoy skating, games, bouncy castle and Patriot dinner special at the Chièvres Community Recreation Center from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$3. Skate rental is \$5.

26 April

- **Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony** -Hosted by ACS, the event will be from 2 to 3 p.m. at the SHAPE Club.

30 April - 1 May

- **Transition counselor institute phase one** - The purpose of the course is to prepare education and installation professionals to recognize and address transition concerns that impact the mobile military child. Registration and breakfast from 8 through 8:30 a.m. Institute training from 8:30 a.m. through 4 p.m. at USAG Benelux Youth Center Ballroom, Bldg. 503 SHAPE. Participants will have the opportunity to earn educational credits in the form 1.2 CEU's for \$25.00 and/or 1 hour of graduate credit Texas A&M-Central Texas for \$175.00, payable at the completion of the training. Limited seats available. For more information call civilian 254-953-1923. To register for the training visit www.MilitaryChild.org and click on the training tab.

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

ACS.

21 April

- **Women's Self Defense Class** -The program from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Protect yourself using your mind and your body. Learn how to protect yourself using kicks, strikes and take-down moves. this class is presented by USAG Benelux Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program and led by a qualified self defence instructor with the support of the USAG Benelux Military Police. Maximum 20 participants. For more information contact DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-717-9783.

25 April

- **Credit scores, reports and repair workshop** - Class is from 10 to 11 a.m. at the ACS conference room. For more information on the Financial Readiness Program or to register for a workshop contact ACS at DSN 368-9783 or civilian at 02-717-9783.

Community Roundup

Earth Day tip: Plant flowers

27 April

- **Volunteer Recognition Ceremony** - Hosted by ACS from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Three Star Recreation Center.

28 April

- **Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) Meeting** - Meets from 11 a.m. to noon at the USAG Brussels BOSS Center in Bldg. 1, 3rd floor to discuss the new BOSS Center, trips and fund raising. For more information contact DSN 368-9763 or civilian 02-717-9763.

4 May

- **Cinco de Mayo party** - Meets at the 3 Star Recreation Center from 6:30 to 11 p.m. The event includes food, fun and dancing (Salsa competition). Open for 18 years old and over. For more information contact the 3 Star Recreation Center at DSN 368-9822 and civilian 02-717-9822.

CLINICS

The Brussels Dental Clinic will be closed April 16 through 20 (no providers). If you are in need of medical care on days the clinic is closed:

- For routine care visit SHAPE Health Facility (at SHAPE) DSN 423-5886 or civilian 065-44-5886.
- For urgent care call the toll-free nurse advise line at 0800-80149 and/or the international SOS emergency line at 0800-80806 (toll-free number for Belgium).
- For medical emergencies which are life, limb or eyesight may call 100 or 112. The emergency room we use for urgent and if possible emergency care is: Universitaire Ziekenhuizen Leuven Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven.
- During weekends or after hours the on-call patient liaison can be contacted through the MP desk 02-717-9769 for non-medical advice.
- Always contact your MTF the next working day after you have been to the ER or when you are admitted to the Hospital.

BRUNSSUM/SCHINNEN COMMUNITY

17 April

- **Home Buying Class** - If you are thinking to buy a house in the United States or need assistance and information about finding realtors, financing and closing costs, find out what you need to know before you make an offer on a house. Meets from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the ACS Conference Room Bldg. 39. For more information call ACS Financial Readiness Program at DSN 360-7450/7500 or civilian 0031 (0)46-443-7450/7500.

18 April

- **Smooth Move Pre-Departure Services** - Learn how to plan for your PCS move, who you should notify and what kind of expenses to expect. Get your questions answered at the Relocation Readiness training at the Schinnen ACS from 10 to 11:30 a.m. For information call civilian 0031(0)46-443-7500.
- **Sponsorship training** - Learn about becoming a sponsor for new arrivals to the Tri-Border community. Get the essential information newcomers need both before and after their arrival. Training is 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Schinnen ACS. Training is by appointment only at civilian 0031(0)46-443-7512.

19-20 April

- **Tri-Border Newcomer's Orientation** - On day one, explore the Dutch culture and language and get an overview of Tri-Border installation services. On day two, visit the Tri-Border communities, take a hospital tour, sightsee local attractions, visit shopping areas and learn how to use the local trains. Course is held at Schinnen ACS from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To enroll call civilian 0031(0)46-443-7500.

24 April

- **Employment Opportunities** - Join us Tuesday in the Schinnen ACS Conference Room for two courses that will help you in your job search. From 9 to 10:30 a.m. you'll learn to write more effective resumes highlighting and marketing your knowledge, skills and abilities in Employment Resume Writing. The following Interviewing Skills Course from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. will cover preparing for an interview, answering tough questions and how to convince potential employers that you're the perfect fit. For information and to register call DSN 360-7500 or civilian 0031 (0)46-443-7500.

25 April

- **Heinsberg Hospital Tour** - Touring the maternity/obstetrics ward of local hospitals is an important way for pregnant women and expectant fathers or birth partners to prepare themselves for the big day. Tour addresses admitting procedures and your childbirth concerns. Meet at 6 p.m. in the Heinsberg Hospital lobby. For more information, call the New Parent Support Program at DSN 360-7335 or commercial 0031- (0)46-443-7335 .

26 April

- **Volunteer Recognition Ceremony** - Volunteers will be recognized in the following categories: military, civilian, youth, sponsor, family member, volunteer family. For more information, contact the Army Volunteer Coordinator at DSN 360-7451 or civilian 0031-(0)46-443-7451 or the Air Force Volunteer Coordinator at Geilenkirchen at DSN 458-6015 or civilian 0049-2451-63-3781.