

THE GAZETTE

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



In Memoriam Robert Lee Mosely

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Staff Sgt. (Ret) Robert "Bob" Mosley on Nov. 22. Mosley served the community in several capacities over many years, as a U.S. Army Soldier, Federal Civilian Employee and with AAFES. Our deepest condolences go out to his wife of more than 30 years and daughter along with the rest of his family and friends. Mosley was born on August 27, 1946 in Waco, Texas. He left Texas at the age of 16, spent a few years in New Jersey and Arizona, but most of his adult life was spent in the Netherlands and Germany. He spent 20 years in the U.S. Army, which included a tour in Vietnam and multiple overseas assignments in Europe.

Garrison and local authorities train together at Chièvres



Donovan Abrassart

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Host nation fire fighter Loïc Boembeke accesses the third floor window as Sgt. Jonathan Ellis, Military Police and role player is asking for help during a fire fighting exercise involving host nation fire fighters, the Federal Police and the MPs Saturday, December 1, 2012 at the Single Service members quarters on Chièvres Air Base. During the exercise that lasted about an hour, non toxic smoke was released and role players were evacuated from the third floor.

See also page 3

U.S. Town Hall Meeting



Keith Houin

U.S. community members line up at the microphone to ask questions at the U.S. Town Hall Meeting Wednesday, November 28, 2012 at the SHAPE International School Cafeteria. The cafeteria was full as community members addressed issues and asked questions regarding facilities, activities, services and events that affect the U.S. in the SHAPE/Chièvres area. A panel of area commanders, school principals, and agency and program directors was on hand to answer the questions, provide guidance or take questions for further review. The questions and answers will be posted to the USAG Benelux website as they are provided from the U.S. National Military Representative's office who is compiling the answers. To view the questions and answers go to www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil and click on the Town Hall Qs&As link. Questions and answers will be added as they are provided until all the questions from the live session, Town Hall email box and AFN Facebook pages are posted.

THE GAZETTE

To subscribe, email usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil

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USAG Benelux
Commander

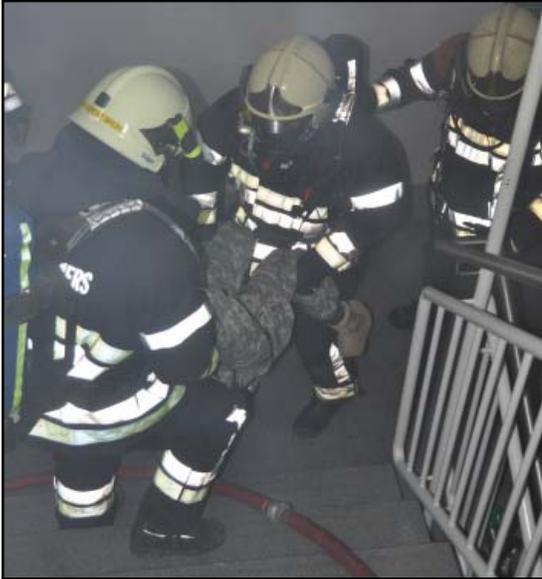
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Exercise I continued



(Top left and bottom) Host nation fire fighters evacuate Sgt. Ronald Retzlaff, Military Police, through the staircase. (Top Right) once outside the building (left) Chièvres fire-fighter Alain Boucher and ambulance worker Gregory Servais from Beloeil, prepare to place Retzlaff a surgical collar before transporting him to the nearest hospital. (U.S.Army photos by Donovan Abrassart)

Emergency numbers

Any emergency
112 from Belgium
or the Netherlands

Chièvres MP station
DSN 361-5301
Civilian 068-27-5301

SHAPE Police Desk
DSN 423-3333/4
Civilian 065-44-3333/4

Brussels MP station
DSN 368-9769
Civilian 02-717-9769

Schinnen MP station
DSN 360-7555
Civilian 046-443-7555

December is National Safe Toys and Gifts Month

Amy Cowell

U.S. Army Public Health Command

The holiday season is upon us and for some it means the stress and anxiety of battling last minute crowds at the mall, frantically cleaning for visiting in-laws and agonizing over preparing the perfect holiday meal.

But not you, you are a holiday planning superstar, and your perfectly planned holiday checklist has been finished for weeks.

Your halls are decked, your stockings are hung by the chimney with care and all of your gifts follow the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's recommendations for safe toys and gifts.

Wait, you haven't done the last one? Maybe you're not the holiday planning superstar you think you are, or maybe you aren't aware of the serious risks involved in giving unsafe holiday toys and gifts. In 2007, the CPSC reported 18 toy-related deaths and an estimated 170,100 hospital emergency-room treated injuries to children under 15. Although these consequences are real, prevention is as simple as following a few safety guidelines when shopping for the perfect holiday gift.

The CPSC recommends the following toy safety shopping tips:

Under 3 Years Old

- Children under 3 tend to put everything in their mouths. Avoid buying toys intended for older children that may have small parts that pose a choking danger.
- Never let children of any age play with deflated or broken balloons because of the choking danger.
- Avoid marbles, balls and games with balls that have a diameter of 1.75 inches or less. These products also pose a choking hazard to young children.
- Children at this age pull, prod and twist toys. Look for toys that are well-made with tightly secured eyes, noses and other parts.
- Avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.

Ages 3 to 5

- Avoid toys that are constructed with thin, brittle plastic that might easily break into small pieces or leave jagged edges.
- Look for household art materials, including crayons and paint sets, marked with the designation "ASTM D-4236." This means the product has been reviewed for chronic health hazards and, if necessary, the product has been labeled with cautionary information.
- Teach older children to keep their toys away from their younger brothers and sisters.

Ages 6-12

- For all children, adults should check toys periodically for breakage and potential hazards. Damaged or dangerous toys should be repaired or thrown away.
- If buying a toy gun, be sure the barrel, or the entire gun, is brightly colored so that it's not mistaken for a real gun.
- If you buy a bicycle for any age child, buy a helmet too, and make sure the child wears it.
- Teach all children to put toys away when they're finished playing so they don't trip over them or fall on them.

And always Read the label.

The CPSC requires toy manufacturers to meet stringent safety standards and to label certain toys that could be a hazard for younger children.

Look for labels that give age recommendations and use that information as a guide. Labels on toys that state "not recommended for children under three ... contains small parts," are labeled that way because they may pose a choking hazard to children under three. Toys should be developmentally appropriate to suit the skills, abilities and interests of the child.

The CPSC oversees the safety of toys and many other consumer products. For more information about purchasing safe toys and gifts, go to www.cpsc.gov



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www.facebook.com/Benelux.Brussels.Community

www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil

community briefs - community briefs - community briefs

Postal Holiday hours

The postal holiday hours in the three communities are as follows:

SHAPE - Monday through Friday

Postal Finance, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Parcel Pick-up, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For mail by appointment (five or more parcels), call DSN 366-6311.

Chièvres - Monday through Friday

Postal Finance, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Parcel Pick-up, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Schinnen- Monday through Friday

Regular hours.
Also open for customer service and parcel pick up noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22.
Dec. 24 is parcel pick up only from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, visit www.ed.umuc.edu, or contact UMUC Europe at DSN 314-370-6762 or civilian 0049-6221-3780.

CYSS

Schinnen CYSS

CYSS is looking for volunteer coaches for tennis, rock climbing, skateboarding, swimming, skiing/snowboarding, archery, and basketball. For information call DSN 364-4195 or civilian 0045-526-4195.

Brussels CYSS

Brussels CYSS is looking for volunteer coaches for baseball, basketball, cheerleading, flag football, soccer and wrestling. If you are interested, call Youth Sports & Fitness at DSN 368-9651 or civilian 02-717-9651.

SHAPE/Chièvres CYSS

SHAPE/Chièvres CYSS is looking for volunteer coaches for racquetball, cross country and table tennis. If you are interested, call Youth Sports & Fitness at DSN 423-6143 or civilian 065-44-6143.

Wide Area Work Flow Training

"Wide Area Work Flow" (WAWF) training will be given at Chièvres Dec. 4. WAWF is a contractor invoicing system that unit CORs (Contracting Officer Representatives)/receiving officers will be required to use. There are a few open seats left. To reserve a seat, please call DSN 368-9632.

Volunteers and hires wanted

The Northern Law Center is looking for military spouses or family members to assist as volunteers or hires during the upcoming tax season.

This is a great opportunity to gain technical and practical experience in tax preparation. The free training is conducted by an IRS representative. Space is limited. For more information, contact the Northern Law Center at DSN 423-3903 or civilian 065-44-3903.

My Army life in photos

Capture your best Army moments for a chance to win great prizes. This Family & MWR photography contest ends Dec. 19. Weekly winners will be awarded for submitting photos in the following categories:

- Theme 1: Army Strong Families
- Theme 2: HOOAH Homecomings
- Theme 3: Vacation Fun
- Theme 4: Patriotic Pets
- Theme 5: MWR Moments

Participants may enter at any time during the promotion. Submit your photos at www.armymwr.com/photocontest.aspx.

Chièvres Self-Help Store

The Chièvres DPW Self-Help store's new operating hours are Mon through Fri from 9:30 a.m. to noon and from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Closed Wed. For more information, call DSN 361-5383 or civilian 068-27-5383.

Holiday Mailing Deadlines

To ensure your packages sent to the United States are delivered before Christmas, mail them no later than these dates:

3 December	PAL parcels
10 December	Priority parcels
10 December	First Class letters
18 December	Express Mail

These dates are valid for all three communities: SHAPE/Chièvres, Brussels and Schinnen.

Education

University of Maryland University College Europe

Registration is available now for Holiday Express Intersession – a shortened session that gives students the opportunity to earn university credit in half the time during the holidays. Many of these courses are offered face-to-face at downrange locations like Afghanistan and Bahrain, so deployed service-members can continue work toward their future goals. The schedule can be found at <http://webapps.umuc.edu/soc/europe.cfm>. This year, UMUC Europe is spreading holiday cheer with a special offer for Spring 2013 textbooks. Through Dec. 21, textbooks will be 40% off when ordered from webText Europe, UMUC's online textbook store. Order at www.ed.umuc.edu/webtext.

There is still time to register for two field study courses taking place Jan. 5-12. Students can explore renaissance art in Florence, Italy, or walk through history guided by famous literature in Paris, France. The registration deadline for both courses is Dec. 23. Go to www.ed.umuc.edu/fieldstudy.

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

French Beer Tax

France has announced that it will raise the tax on beer by 160 percent. If France chooses to do so, it is likely to threaten hundreds of jobs in the Belgian beer sector, says Sven Gatz, the Chairman of the Belgian Brewers. France is the biggest market for Belgian beer (20 percent of the Belgian beer production). Gatz expects the measure to cause the sales in France to drop by 15 to 20 percent. The brewers are especially upset that the tax increase only applies to beer and not wine and liquor. The brewers believe it is a case of discrimination and protectionism. Prime Minister Di Rupo has already raised the issue with French President Hollande while the latter made a remark on the Belgian fiscal legislation that is attracting French millionaires who want to evade the French tax on wealth.

New Holocaust Museum in Belgium

The grand opening of the new Holocaust museum in Mechelen was held last week in presence of Belgian King Albert II. The building is built with a total of 25,852 bricks, i.e. exactly the number of Jewish people and Gypsies who were deported from the Dossin barracks in Mechelen between 1942 and 1944. Of those deported, only five percent came back from the concentration camps.

DUI checks increased over the holiday season

The Belgian government has announced an increased number of road checks during the holiday season. These checks will mainly focus on detecting drunk drivers and will start mid-December to last until mid-January.

Belgians discover three new species of bees

A team of scientists from the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences, has discovered three new South-African bee species. The bees involved are primitive bees with a length of only 6 or 7 millimeters. They have South Africa's Cape Province as their natural habitat and have only been spotted there. The bees have been assigned to the new family *Capalictus*. The Belgian scientists worked with America's Cornell University and London's Natural History Museum for their research.

Synthetic diamonds in Antwerpen

The Antwerp judicial authorities are looking into a fraud case involving synthetic diamonds. Synthetic diamonds can hardly be distinguished from real ones, only laboratory research can provide real guarantees. The scam was discovered in Antwerp's Gemological Institute. Apparently, also counterfeit diamonds are being traded in the city of Antwerp. This was discovered almost by accident, when a trader had some checks done on 1,000 smaller stones. 600 turned out to be synthetic or man-made. The diamonds involved came from abroad (an American supplier). People tried to sell them in Antwerp presenting them as real, natural diamonds. They had been mixed with other real diamonds to fool buyers, but a laboratory

in Antwerp discovered the scam. Synthetic diamonds are cheaper than real diamonds, but not so much, because it is very expensive to make them.

Coastline of Dutch island Texel reinforced

A total of 5.8 million cubic meters of sand has been blasted onto the coast of the Wadden Sea island of Texel to ensure the stability of the coastline for the next three or four years. In total, seven dredgers made 2,000 trips to move the sand, which forms an essential defense against the sea.

Remembering WWI

Belgium is getting ready to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the first conflict in which the whole world was involved. The production company Studio 100, that mainly focuses on children's television and state show, is in the final stages of negotiation to hire the Nekkerhal in Mechelen for almost a year in order to stage a show about the First World War. Among other shows, the public broadcaster VRT will air an eight part show titled 'Ten Oorlog' (To War). Heads of State will be invited to attend a national memorial ceremony on October 15, 2014.

Zoo gives away four elephants

A power struggle within a group of elephants at Emmen zoo in the Netherlands has grown so out of control that the zoo has decided to give away four of the herd free of charge. The power struggle erupted following the death of the herd's matriarch Htoo Khin Aye in June, when she collapsed and died, squashing her three-week old calf in the process. Since then, two rival strands of the family have been fighting it out for control. The two leading females - Htoo Khin Aye's oldest daughter and another elephant who is the oldest female in the group - are now continually bullying each other, helped by their sisters and children. The dispute has become so serious the two groups cannot exercise at the same time and have to be kept separated. The zoo authorities have now decided one female, her two sons and a daughter are to be found a new home and given away free of charge to another zoo.

Plans to sell barbed wire dropped

The foundation in charge of a former Nazi concentration camp in the Netherlands has scrapped plans to sell pieces of barbed wire dug up at the site following protests from Jewish groups. The Kamp Amersfoort foundation said the sale of 50 pieces of wire for €10 each would not go ahead. The sale had been planned to raise money to finance an exhibition of artifacts found on site. 'It seems we have hurt people and that was not our intention,' said the site director. Jewish groups had described the planned sale as 'completely tasteless and lacking in respect'. Up to 40,000 people passed through the camp during World War II, of whom at least half were deported to death camps.

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

6 December

- **Late openings at Brussels Museums** – Explore at least five museums from 5 to 10 p.m. accompanied by a program of special activities, such as guided tours, stories and demonstrations. This week, among others, you can visit the Constantin Meunier Museum, the Museum of Costume and Lace or the Museum of the city of Brussels. To have more information and an exhaustive list, go to www.brussel museumsnocturnes.be/index-en.php?page=2§=&id=.
- **Christmas market and tasting of catering, wine, beers and local products in Attre** at the Grange aux Vins on rue d'Ath 26. Saint-Nicolas and Santa Claus will be giving delicacies to children from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Christmas market and tastings open from 3:30 to 11 p.m.

7-9 December

- **Wine tasting in Ecaussinnes** on Rue de Restaumont 118 at the Brewery Ultra. More than 100 different wines will be presented by 30 wine-makers, there will be also catering tasting. A lottery will be organized every hour with a big prize to win: a week in Bourgogne for six people. Entrance fee is €3 including a tasting glass offered. Open Friday 5 to 10 p.m., Saturday 1 to 8 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Wine and cheese fair in Court-St-Etienne** on Avenue des Combattants. Open Friday from 5 to 10 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

7-11 December

- **Agribex in Brussels at Brussels Expo** – International Fair for Agriculture, Stockbreeding, Garden, Parks and Green areas. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. More information on www.agribex.be/en.



9 December

- **Volksmarch in Carnières** for 3, 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is from the Place de Carnières from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Cornil-Noirmont** for 5, 10, 15, 20 km. Departure is on Route de Gembloux 2 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Ophain-Bois-Seigneur-Isaac** for 5, 10, 15, 20 km. Departure is on Rue Sart-Moulin 1 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Erquelinnes** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is on Rue de Maubeuge from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The 5 km route is accessible to disabled people.
- **Volksmarch in Marcinelle** for 5, 10, 15, 20 km. Departure is on Rue de Nalennes 632 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Silly** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is on



This column includes events within close distance to Brunssum and Schinnen.

6-9 December

- **Christmas Fair at Castle Keukenhof** across the street of the famous gardens and near the town of Lisse. The court and Castle are decorated and at the more than 100 stands you will find usual Christmas decorations and articles also accessories and delicacies and of course plants and flowers. The Castle itself can also be visited. Open Dec. 6, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Dec. 7-8, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Dec. 9, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry: €8; children 11 and younger – free entrance.

6-9, 13-16, 20-23 December

- **Castle Merode Christmas Market** The Prince and Princess von Merode will open the Castle Merode again this year for a romantic and traditional Christmas Market. The market is only open on Thursdays-Saturdays, 2 to 9 p.m. and Sundays, noon to 8 p.m. Entry on Thursdays and Fridays is €5 and in the weekend €5.50, children (6-16) €1. To get to Castle Merode follow the A4 (Köln/Aachen); exit Eschweiler-Ost and follow signs Weisweiler and Langerwehe. Then get on B264 direction Düren until sign Merode.

7-9, 14-16, 21-23 December

- **Christmas Market in Bad Münstereifel (GE)**. Market is held in the middle of the timber-framed houses in the center of town. Open: Fridays, 2 to 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

7-9, 14-16 December

- **Castle Tüßling Christmas Market** near the town of Altötting (GE) opens its gates and invites everyone to the romantic and enchanting Christmas Market. Entry: €4; children (6-15) €1. Open Fridays, 3 to 8 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 8 p.m.

8-9 December

- **Art Christmas Market in Mönchengladbach (GE)**. at Castle Rheydt Museum on Schlossstrasse 508. Open both days from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

8-30 December and 2-3 January

- **Christmas Express**. On Saturdays and Sundays in December and as well as January 2 and 3 you can to travel to the Christmas Markets in Valkenburg and/or Maastricht in a nostalgic way. Park your car at the train station in Simpelveld the historic steam train will take you on a wondrous and relaxing journey through the beautiful Limburg scenery to the center of the Christmas City of Valkenburg. For tickets, reservations and more information go to www.zlsm.nl or call 0031-(0)45-5440018.

9 December

- **Coca-Cola Collectors Fair in Wilrijk (BE)** held at European Coca-Cola Visitors Center on Terbekehofdreef 30. Free entrance. Open: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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

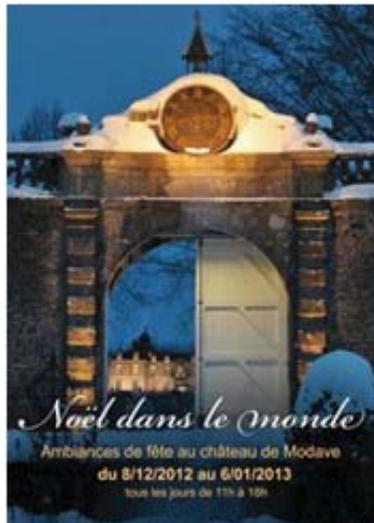
Ongoing Events & Happenings

Through 9 December

- **Walking with Dinosaurs in Brussels** at the Brussels Expo. Open Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. More info on www.brusselsexpo.be.

9 December through 6 January

- **Christmas at the Modave Castle in Liège** - Christmas decoration in the castle from florist Dominique Rausin. The castle is situated on a rock in the middle of a nature reserve and has about twenty richly decorated and furnished rooms. Open every day from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information go to www.modave-castle.be/infos_pratiques/langue_en/



Through 1 January

- **Exhibition "Belgian Art, A Modern Century" in Ixelles** at the Museum of Ixelles. More information on www.museedixelles.irisnet.be/en.

Through 6 January

- **Expo Toots 90 exhibition in Brussels** - For his 90th birthday, discover the career of one of the greatest Belgian jazzmen. More information on www.toots90.be.agenda.

Through 13 January

- **Exhibition "Jules Wabbes-Furniture Designer" in Brussels**- An exhibition on one of the leading Belgian furniture designers of the postwar period. The exhibition includes original drawings and photographs, and unique pieces of furniture as well as prototypes that are going on public view for the first time. More information about prices and times on www.bozar.be/activity.php?id=11662&selectiondate=2012-09-24.

Through 15 January

- **Exhibition "European Ceramics and Glass Triennial in Mons** - Discover European jewellery, ceramics and glass creations showcased. Germany and Portugal are the guest countries at the fourth edition of this triennial expo. Their work will be exhibited along with a selection of Northern and Southern Belgian pieces.

Through 24 January

- **Exhibition "The 19th century, jewelry and woman" in Seneffe** - An exhibition to discover many sides of the jewellery in 19th Century. Learn how the women wore them, which jewels for which event, party, wedding, travel. In a very intimate atmosphere, get into the Castle of Seneffe to discover this exhibition.
- **Chocol@t exhibition in Stavelot** - The Abbey of Stavelot hosts an exhibition which retraces the history of cocoa and chocolate and the history of many of the region's firms, draws up an inventory of the status of chocolate at the present time and wonders about the chocolate of the future, where chocolate is heading, its development, its innovations, new ways of working. More information on www.abbayedestavelot.be/code/en/expo_detail.asp?pk_id_abbaye=1063



This column includes events within close distance to Brunssum and Schinnen.

Through 3 December

- **Altstädter Nikolaus Market in the old historic center of Bergheim** - Attractive and traditional Saint Nicolas Market located in the Heimatmuseum among the timber-framed houses. Open daily from 6 to 10 p.m.

Through 22 December

- **Medieval Christmas Market in Heinsberg (GE)**. Held at Burg- and Kirchberg. The market is illu-

Ongoing Events & Happenings

minated by candles and oil lamps while on some days the old spirits and dark figures will dance and roam around the majestic St. Gangolf church. All together is an enchanted Christmas spectacle which will bring everyone in the right spirit. Open daily 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Through 23 December

- **Christmas Show in Schimmert**, at Lupa Outdoors Vijvercentrum Limburg on Op de Bies 70. Open Mondays from 1 to 5:30 p.m., Tuesdays-Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturdays- Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Christmas Fair "Spirit of Christmas" in Spaubeek**, at Victorian House, Musschenberg 30 English antiques such as furniture, accessories and more. The fair is only open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Through 3 February

- **Winter Efteling in Kaatsheuvel** at Efteling Amusement & Fairy Tale Park on Europalaan near Tilburg offers good old-fashioned winter fun. Open on weekdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., weekends and Dec. 22 through Jan. 6 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Dec. 31 from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Entry is €35.



Christmas Markets

The below list of selected Christmas markets and activities includes the ones that start this week. The list will be updated on a weekly basis to include the markets starting the week of the Gazette's publication date. You can view a larger selection of Christmas markets in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany at the USAG Benelux homepage - www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil - and click on the appropriate country.

Selected Christmas markets in Belgium that have opened or will open this week. Items in blue are those markets added this week:



6 December to 2 January

- **Christmas Village in Mouscron** at Grand Place. Ice skating rink and weekend visits by Santa.

7-9 December

- **Christmas Village in Berchem-St-Agathe** on Avenue du Roi Albert, 33. Open Dec. 7, 4 to 10 p.m., Dec. 8, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Dec. 9, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Christmas Magic in Bouffloulx** in the Grange Aux Potiers. Dubois Pottery transforms into a giant basket with decorative objects, crafts, regional food products and more. Open: Dec. 7, 6:30 to 11 p.m.; Dec. 8, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Dec. 9, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

7-16 December

- **Christmas Market in Binche** at Grand' Place in the center of town.

8-9 December

- **Christmas Market in Chimay** at Grand' Place and in the Castle courtyard in Chimay is open on Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Indoor Christmas Village in Ath** at Quai de l'Entrepôt. Open Dec. 8, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Dec. 9, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Christmas Market and Gift Fair in Bouillon** at Archéoscope in the center of the town. Open: Dec. 8, noon to 8 p.m. and Dec. 9, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Crafts Christmas Market in Ciney** with about 98 artists from different countries in Centre Culturel et Sportif in Ciney. Open both days, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m..

Through 24 December

- **Christmas Village & Market in Charleroi** at place Charles II. Open Mon-Thu from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Fri-Sat from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sun from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Through 30 December

- **Christmas Village in Liège** at Place de Marché is the largest Belgian Christmas Market. "Village de Noël" has atmosphere, full of magic and glamorous Christmas sentiments in the town center. It is a festive Belgian mix of Alsatian and German Christmas ingredients. Open Mon-Thu from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Fri-Sun from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Selected Christmas markets in the Netherlands that have opened or will open this week. Items in blue are those markets added this week:



6-9 December

- **Christmas Country Fair in Beesd** at "Heerlijkheid Mariënwaerd" estate near the town of Beesd. The estate is a perfect background for this fair. The main house is open to the public; there will be choirs and more than 80 stands with a variety of Christmas articles. Sledge rides are also available. Open Dec. 6 & 9, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Dec. 7-8, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Entry is €10; children 11 and younger have free entrance. Take A2 highway Utrecht-Den Bosch; exit at #14 Beesd. Follow signs "Kerstfair".

8 December

- **Christmas Country in Geertruidenberg** from 3 to 9 p.m. on Market Square in the center of the fortified town.

8-9, 15-16 December

- **Christmas Country in Bemmel** in the greenhouse of Perkplantenkwekerij Leijten on Broekstraat is a real Christmas event with lots of decorations, gifts, toys, clothes, entertainment and more. Santa will visit also and he has some gifts for the smallest among us. Open: noon to 7 p.m..

9 December

- **Christmas Country in Best** in the city center. Open: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Christmas Country in Elsloo** in Maaslandcentrum from noon to 5 p.m.
- **Dickensnight in Helmond** in the center of the Brandevoort quarter. The center is changed into a market from England in the 1850s. Victorian personalities and characters from Dickens' stories will walk around as well and there is besides an attractive Christmas Market also lots of entertainment. Open 2 to 8 p.m.



Donovan Abrassart

Christmas Markets | Continued



Christmas Markets



Through 31 December

- **Christmas Village (Noelleries) in Namur** with lots of activities at Place d'Armes and Rue de Fer is open daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Every Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. Horse drawn carriage rides.
- **The Christmas Village in Tournai** with Christmas Market, a large Christmas tree, rides, Nativity Scene and more on Grand Place is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 2 to 7 p.m. and in weekends the Christmas Village is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Through January 2

- **Christmas Market in the center of Bruges** on Market Square and Simon Stevinplein. Open Mon-Fri from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sat-Sun from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Through January 6

- **Brussels Christmas market** - The Brussels Winter European christmas market. There is an ice skating rink and much more await visitors in the warm and friendly atmosphere of downtown Brussels. More information on http://visitbrussels.be/bitc/BE_en/minisite_winterwonders/content/7565/the-attractions.do
- **Winter Dream in Gent** with Christmas Market, ice-skating rink and lots more winter activities on Sint-Pietersplein. Open Mon-Fri from 1 to 9 p.m. and Sat-Sun from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Winterland in the center of Hasselt** with ice-skating rink and more attractions. A Christmas Market is held at Kolonel Dusartplein, Grote Markt and Molenpoort at the same time daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Through January 12

- **Indoor Christmas Market in Knokke-Heist** - Indoor Christmas Market with ice-skating rink, lots of stands and many activities on the Verweerplein. Entry is free. Open all days 3 to 10 p.m.



Saint Nicolas Day (or Sinterklaas in Dutch) is celebrated on Dec. 6 and is a festive event for children in many European countries. Saint Nicolas is known to bring goodies and toys to the children during the night of Dec. 5 to 6.



Through 23 December

- **Christmas Market in Soest** with lots of activities at Tuinadviescentrum 't Vaarderhoogt on Dorresteinweg 72b. Open Sat-Thu from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fri from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., closed on Sun.
- **Christmas Fair "Spirit of Christmas" in Spaubeek** at Victorian House, Musschenberg 30 with English antiques such as furniture, accessories and more. The fair is only open on Fri, Sat and Sun from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Christmas Market Valkenburg** in Fluwelengrot (Velvet Cave) on Daalhemmerweg. A unique Christmas Market held in the caves under the castle ruins. Open Sun-Thu from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fri-Sat from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Dec. 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €5; children (5-11) €3.

Through 24 December

- **Authentic and attractive Christmas Show in Schimmert** at Lupa Outdoors Vijvercentrum Limburg on Op de Bies 70. Open Mon from 1 to 5:30 p.m.; Tue-Fri from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sat-Sun from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Through 31 December

- **Magical Maastricht.** The city of Maastricht can be called Christmas Town with reason this year. The Vrijthof is transformed into a large ice-skating rink. There are many traditional and nostalgic attractions and Christmas Markets at several locations in the center, new is the market on Kesselskade along the river. Maastricht with Christmas is fun for young and old. Open Mon-Thu from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Fri-Sat from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sun from noon to 6 p.m., Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Dec. 25-26.

Through January 6

- **Valkenburg - Christmas Town.** Visiting the town of Valkenburg during the winter months is like stepping into the story of Charles Dickens. Illuminated streets, decorated Christmas trees and beautiful Christmas songs bring this little town alive. Enjoy the only Dutch town in real Christmas settings: in one of the many cozy restaurants and pubs, in the decorated shops, at the hotels, the sights and of course the unique Christmas markets in the caves. Every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. and every Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. a Christmas Parade with floats, dancers and animators will move through the center.
- **Winter Festival in Eindhoven** in the town center with ice skating rink, stands and lots of other entertainment in the center of Eindhoven. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

SHAPE Trips & Tours

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



Courtesy Photo

Events & Happenings

- **London, December 8** - The day is yours to see London In Lights. Price is €70. Departs SHAPE at 4:30 a.m., returns SHAPE at 2:30 a.m. Departs Brussels at 3:30 a.m. and returns Brussels at 3:30 a.m.
- **Aachen and Monschau, Germany Christmas Markets, December 15** - Travel with us to the quaint village of Monschau where you can do your Christmas shopping at the many wooden stalls. Our next stop will be Aachen's "Christmas City". Price is € 50 Adults, €45 Child (0-12). Departs SHAPE at 7 a.m., returns SHAPE at 11 p.m. Departs Brussels at 8 a.m. and returns at 10 p.m.
- **Paris after Christmas, December 27** - A relaxing day in Paris. From culinary delights to cultural sights. Price is €50. Departs SHAPE at 8 a.m. and returns SHAPE at 11:30 p.m. Departs Brussels at 6:45 a.m. and returns at 00:30 a.m.
- **New Year's in London, December 30 - January 1** - London is one of the most popular places to spend New Year's Eve. There will be a New Year's Day Parade starting at Parliament Square at noon as well as the fabulous fireworks display at the London Eye that night. Prices: €468 Single, €298 Double, Twin or Triple, €198 Youth 3-12*, €98 Child 0-2* (*When sharing a room with two fully paid guests). Departs SHAPE at 7:15 a.m.(Sunday), returns SHAPE at midnight (Tuesday). Departs Brussels at 6 a.m. (Sunday), returns Brussels at 1:15 a.m. (Wednesday).

Schinnen Trips and Tours

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

- **Spring Break getaway to Malgrat de Mar, Spain, March 29-April 7 (Register prior to Dec. 22 with down-payment)** - Included in Tour Price: round trip royal class motorcoach transportation (non-smoking); Seven overnights in a 4-star hotel; half board accommodation (seven Breakfasts & seven Dinners Included). Prices: \$489 per person in Double Room; \$639 per person in Single Room; \$389 per child (3-11 years) staying in the parents room, when sharing a room with two fully paid guests.

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.

- **Aachen Christmas Market and Cathedral, December 12** - Guided tour of the Dom and Christmas market. Price is €35 Adults.
- **Paris Llights, December 17** - Spend the day in Paris for cultural visits or Christmas shopping. Price is €40 Adults.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BRUNSSUM/SCHINNEN COMMUNITY

December 5

- **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony** - Held at the Community Activity Center at 5:30 p.m. Following the lighting of the tree, Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive and the AFNORTH band and choir will provide entertainment.
- **Ten Steps to a Federal Job** - Get an overview of the start-to-finish process of the U.S. federal job search. Learn the Ten Steps of applying for a job from a certified trainer, including exploring the different agencies, analyzing job announcements, key words, KSAs, and much more. Class is held from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the Schinnen ACS Conference Room and requires registration at 046-443-7269/7500.
- **Heinsberg Hospital Tour** - Touring the maternity/obstetrics ward of local hospitals is an important way for pregnant women to prepare for the big day. Tours address admitting procedures and your childbirth concerns. The meeting place is the Heinsberg Hospital lobby at 6 p.m. For more information contact the New Parent Support Program at ACS. Call 046-443-7335.

December 6

- **Aaron Tippin & Friends free concert** - Held at the Schinnen Community Activity Center starting at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.). Open to U.S. & NATO ID card holders and guests. For more information, call DSN 360-7370 or civilian 046-443-7370.
- **JFC Tree Lighting and Caroling** - starting at 5 p.m. at the JFC International Conference Center in Brunssum.

December 7

- **Cultural Adaptation Tour** to Valkenburg Christmas Market - Tour starts at 8:30 a.m. at Schinnen ACS. We'll travel by train to this unique Christmas Market situated in the historic Valkenburg Caves. Tour is open to all US and NATO ID cardholders. To find out more and to reserve a spot call 046-443-7500.
- **CDC/SAS Parents' Night Out** - Enjoy a night out while CYSS takes care of your children from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. A light dinner will be served. Care is \$20 per child with each additional sibling at \$18. AFC benefits can be used. Care is located at JFC Brunssum Bldg. H-501. To sign-up contact PCS at 045-526-3121 or stop by to make your reservation. Open to CYSS Registered Children Infant-6th Grade. Fees are non-refundable. For additional information, call 045-526-3008.

YOUR VOICE

MAKES THE DIFFERENCE.



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with your Smart Phone

to access the ICE Comment Cards of our

USAG Benelux-wide Community



Interactive Customer Evaluation

Community Roundup



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

AFN Benelux is conducting a survey to help them improve their services to the community .

Take a minute and go to

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RFFTRFX>

to provide your input.

SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

December 6-8

- **101 Dalmatians** at the SHAPE Players Performing Arts Center. Performances, Bldg 207: Tickets: \$8
 - December 6, 7:30 p.m.
 - December 7, 7:30 p.m.
 - December 8, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

For tickets or for more information call: 065-44-3312 or DSN 423-3312, SHAPEPlayers.org

December 7

- **Tree Lighting Celebration** on Chièvres Air Base, next to PX and Commissary from 4:30 to 8 p.m.

December 12

- **Bingo** at the Warrior Zoneoors open 5 p.m. Play begins at 6:15 p.m. .Costs are: Pack of 10 game cards, \$20, mini jackpot, \$7 plus purchase of 10 game cards; jackpot, \$10 plus purchase of 10 game cards; early bird, \$2. Prizes: \$30 each, mini-jackpot \$150, Jackpot \$250.



BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

December 7

- **Closures** - All services with the exception of CYSS and the Fitness Center from 1 to 4 p.m. For questions regarding this closure, please contact the DPTMS at DSN 368-9623 or Commercial: 02-717-9623.

December 8

- **Jingle Bell Jog** - Starting at 9 a.m. Prizes will be awarded to first and second place finishers for both the 5km and 10km. The registration deadline for this event is Dec. 4. Contact the Fitness Center at DSN 368-9667 or civilian 02-717-9667 for departure location and other information.

December 10

- **Metro Madness** - Learn to use the tram, bus and train in Brussels from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Meet at ACS Bldg 4, Room 320.

December 11

- **Consumer Rights Class** - Learn the difference between banks and credit unions, how to evaluate the accounts and products they offer, and what your rights and protections are when using checks, debit cards and more. Class is from 1 to 2 p.m. in the ACS conference room.

December 13

- **Winter Fest** at the 3-Star Community Club from 4:30 until 6 p.m. Kids crafts and Santa visit. Soup and build your own sandwich bar, \$6.95 (children 12 and under, \$3.95).
- **Tree Lighting** at 6 p.m. at the flagpole Hot Chocolate and Gluwein.
- **Baby Sign-Language** classes from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the ACS conference room. To register call DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-717-9783.



Don't forget to fill out the SHAPE/Chièvres U.S. civilian employee Living Pattern Survey at www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil