

THE GAZETTE

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

Victory in Europe

World War II ended in Europe when Germany officially surrendered at 11:01 p.m., May 8, 1945. Ever since, May 8 or VE Day continues to be celebrated. USAG Benelux is participating in three ceremonies in the local area, May 8:

- **Brugelette** at 6 p.m. at the city hall for a parade to the monument of war victims.
- **Chièvres**, at 6:30 p.m. on the main square.
- **Ath** at 6:45 p.m. at the train station for a parade through town.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

OHA Survey

U.S. Army Europe's Overseas Housing Allowance Survey's deadline has been extended until May 11. To complete the survey visit www.eur.army.mil and click on Hot Topics.

Brussels Health Clinic

Due to equipment malfunction there will be no pharmacy service May 7. Service will resume shortly after equipment repair.

Brussels Softball

USAG Brussels Sports and Fitness Center is now accepting team rosters for its 2012 Adult Intramural Softball League. The season begins May 30. To sign your team up contact the USAG Brussels Fitness Center at DSN 368-9667 or civilian 02-717-9667.

Safety Stand Down Day



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Didier Niset, USAG Benelux Fire Prevention Officer shows Christine Debaere, USAG Benelux Administrative Assistance, how to firmly hold and operate a fire hose during the Safety Stand Down Day on Chièvres Air Base, May 3, 2012. The event not only included briefings but various organizations among which the Civil Protection, the Federal Police, the Chièvres Fire Department and the 309th Airlift Squadron Fire Department displayed their equipment or invited community members to experience the rollover car and the motorcycle riding simulator. Various stands pertaining to a specific safety topic, also provided information to the community.

New First Sergeant to lead USAG Benelux Soldiers



U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Headquarters and Headquarters Company held a change of responsibility Thursday, May 3, 2012. (left) Outgoing first sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Darian Guzman says his farewells and thanks company and garrison for their support and giving him the opportunity. (Below) 1st Sgt. Carl Leonard stands at the lead of the company formation. (U.S. Army photos by Keith Houin)



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Memorial Day ceremonies in the Benelux

Special to the Gazette

Memorial Day ceremonies are held throughout the Benelux. Belgium, the Netherlands and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg have twice in the last century suffered the tyranny of a foreign invasion and occupation. Of the 345,000 Americans killed in action during the two World Wars, over 14,000 are buried in Belgium, over 8,000 are buried in the Netherlands and over 5,000 are buried in Luxembourg. Memorial Day is an American national holiday to remember their sacrifice.

This year's events are planned for the weekend of May 26 and 27.

Ceremonies take place in the five American military cemeteries, of which three are located in Belgium, one in the Netherlands and one in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Each gravestone marks the resting place of an American who died fighting tyranny and oppression in the name of human dignity and the freedom of mankind. Each gravestone also represents the tragic loss of a beloved husband, brother, father or son.

Memorial Day ceremonies are not only a tribute to fallen heroes. They are a symbol of the shared values of the American and Host Nation peoples. Veterans, resistance fighters, military officers, diplomats, government officials and other distinguished guests offer testimonials and prayers in honor of the dead. The occasion helps us to recall the self-evident truths enshrined in the American Declaration of Independence, "...that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness". Memorial Day ceremonies remind us all – young and old – that wars are never good, but sometimes necessary.

Former U.S. President John F. Kennedy once said "a na-

tion reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers." Memorial Day ceremonies ensure that the heroic spirit of many brave men and women will live on in this century, so that we might never forget the expensive lessons learned at the price of human blood. After all, to forget the past is to risk repeating it.

Everyone is invited to attend the Memorial Day ceremonies. It is recommended to arrive at least one hour prior to the ceremonies in order to find parking. Tickets for reserved seats for the ceremony in Margraten, the Netherlands only can be obtained on a first-come, first-serve basis from the USAG Schinnen Public Affairs Office at 0031-(0)46-443-7331. Tickets must be picked-up by May 24.



U.S. Service members participate every year in the Memorial Day ceremonies at the American cemeteries in Belgium and the Netherlands.

2012 Memorial Day Ceremonies

Saturday, May 26, 2012 at 10 a.m., Ardennes American Cemetery in Neuville-en-Condroz (BE), final resting place of 5328 American service members killed throughout Europe during WWII. Three-fifths of all the burials are airmen who were shot down from the skies above Europe. Among the graves are 11 instances in which two brothers are buried side-by-side.

Saturday, May 26, 2012 at 4 p.m., Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Aubel (BE), final resting place of 7992 U.S. Soldiers and Airmen who died in the advance of the American Armed Forces into Germany in 1944-1945. Among the graves are 38 instances of two brothers lying side-by-side and one instance of three brothers buried side-by-side.

Saturday, May 26, 2012 at 2 p.m., Luxembourg American Cemetery in Luxembourg, the last resting place of 5,076 American service members who lost their lives in the Battle of the Bulge and in the advance to the Rhine River. It is also the last resting place of General George S. Patton.

Sunday, May 27, 2012 at 3 p.m., Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem (BE), final resting place of 368 American Servicemen who fought in Belgium during World War I. This cemetery is also the smallest of the American military cemeteries in Europe.

Sunday, May 27, 2012 at 3 p.m., the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten (NL), the only American cemetery of its kind in the Netherlands where rest 8,301 American service members.

For direction to any of the above cemeteries, visit www.abmc.gov/cemeteries/cemeteries.php.



Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten (NL)

Soldier, NCO named IMCOM's "Best Warriors"

By William Bradner and Neal Snyder

U.S. Army Installation Management Command

A transportation specialist from Fort Bliss and a military police investigations supervisor from U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern will represent the U.S. Army Installation Management Command at the Army's Best Warrior competition later this year.

Spc. Kevin M. Mulloy, representing the IMCOM Central Region, and Staff Sgt. Robert C. Donovan, representing the Europe Region, were named IMCOM Soldier and noncommissioned officer of the Year April 26 after a five-day competition that tested the skills of warriors from each of IMCOM's four regions.

The Soldiers and NCOs competed in a series of tests -- beginning with a physical fitness test and running the gamut from basic Soldier skills to night land navigation.

"Thank you for putting together such an elite competition," Donovan told leadership as he accepted the recognition. "I can assure you that I added a great number of tools to my kitbag."

Mulloy credited his faith and family for many of his successes, but also thanked other participants in the competition. "Your motivation and drive pushed me harder and harder to continue on," he said.

He recalled words from Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt, Central Region command sergeant major: "'Mulloy, never quit.' And then lo, and behold, [IMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Earl] Rice said the exact same thing. So to both of these command sergeants major, thank you for your words. Two words. Never quit. It really hit me."

The goal of the competition was to find the best Soldiers in IMCOM to be those representatives, Rice said. But the competition also serves as an awesome leader development tool to strengthen our NCO Corps and protect the future of our Army by developing competent and confident NCOs, he added.

"When they push themselves to their limits [in a competition like this one], they know how to push their Soldiers beyond what they think they can do," Rice



SSG Robert Donovan, IMCOM Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, negotiates the obstacle course on Camp Bullis, Texas, during the IMCOM Best Warrior competition April 23. (U.S. Army photo by Neal Snyder, IMCOM)

said.

These Soldiers were in it to win, Rice added. They represent the Army best by representing the best in themselves.

"The attitude of these Soldiers who came here to compete was all about the winning spirit," Rice said. "You knew they believed in the warrior ethos and Army values just by the way they carried themselves."

Donovan, the IMCOM Europe NCO of the Year, agreed.

"What I want to get out of this competition is simply to get some good training, push myself to the limits, hopefully come out on top, and continue as the Department of the Army NCO of the Year, but in the meantime lead from the front and have my Soldiers back in the rear be proud of what I do," he said.

Donovan stood out for his motivation and attitude, Rice said. "He is an NCO that carries himself with confidence. Young Soldiers could look at him and say, 'I would follow this noncommissioned officer.

"He pushed himself to try and work harder and better than he thought he could. In every way he exceeded the standard," Rice said.

Mulloy, the Central Region Soldier of the Year, also came to the competition with the goal of banking skills for the future.

"What I really hope to get out of this is just the training tools to lead the Soldiers for whenever I step into the position of NCO," he said before the competition.

"It's about learning, about being better Soldiers," said Army Environmental Command, Command Sgt. Maj. Earlene Lavender, noncommissioned officer in charge of the event. "They all recognize this as an opportunity to learn and grow, and they all want the very best representing the command at the Army level," Lavender said.

In opening remarks Sunday morning, Rice spoke to the competitors about the honor of making it through their garrison- and regional-level competitions to the IMCOM level, and reminded them that it's not just about winning, it's about becoming better Soldiers.

Midway through the competition, runner-up Pfc. Jason Durski, from IMCOM Pacific, echoed the Rice's comments after completing a two-hour written exam.

"I'm doing my best, and if I come out on top, great," he said. "If I don't, I'll take it as a training and learning experience."

Sgt. Ryan Mason, from IMCOM Atlantic, took that sentiment a step further.

"We're here to represent ourselves, our regions, and our garrisons," Mason said, "but it's also about what we can provide to our Soldiers when we get back.

"In the end we're still a team," he said. "Maybe not the same installation or region, but the same Army. It's our duty to pass on what we know to others."

A sponsor accompanied each Soldier and NCO from his or her region, and the Command Sgt. Maj. from each region was on hand to observe and assist -- and take part by sitting on a board during the competition.

Preserve your sight to fight

By Robert N. Kang, Ph. D.

U.S. Army Public Health Command

Today's Soldiers understand the importance of mission readiness. We prepare our equipment and we train to ensure we are ready to go. But, how about your eyes - are they ready to go? You know you need protection from dust, wind, UV and bright sunlight. How about a 0.15-caliber steel fragment coming at you at 660 feet per second? How about your glasses prescription? Are you seeing 20/20 or just think that you are?

Here are the facts: eye injuries are a large part of combat injuries and can lead to blindness. Your sight is important and the Army's Military Combat Eye Protection program wants to protect your eyes.

The Army has teamed with commercial manufacturers to develop, test and field combat eyewear. The spectacles and goggles are tested to meet not only the industry standard, but also the even more stringent military standards. For example, the military ballistic fragmentation standards are five to six times stronger than industry standards for impact protection. Program Executive Office Soldier then places all approved eyewear on the Authorized Protective Eyewear List. Units and/or Soldiers can choose spectacles and goggles to suit their mission needs. This provides Soldiers the opportunity to check proper fit and to ensure the product can accommodate their prescription inserts.

APEL provides assurance that the items have been certified to meet military and industry standards and have been approved by users downrange.

In a 2009 survey of MCEP users, 33 percent indicated personal experiences where they felt the combat eye protection saved their eye(s) from injury. Another report showed MCEP users had nearly 10 percent less eye injuries in combat operations. The same report also showed significant decrease in the severity of eye injuries in MCEP users. The USAPHC



monitors battlefield data on eye injuries and the results clearly show that ballistic eye protection works.

The current APEL has six goggles and nine spectacles. They all come with both clear and neutral gray tinted lenses that are interchangeable and replaceable. The products, and all replacement parts, have national stock numbers and can be obtained through normal logistic channels. The program also has products that protect from lasers.

For Soldiers who need vision correction, four of the goggles and seven

of the spectacles are compatible with prescription inserts (similar to the gas mask inserts). Unfortunately, not all the prescription inserts are interchangeable between brands. The program office is working to create a universal prescription inserts. Until then, it is important to know what brand of military combat eye protection you are issued, so that your local optometry clinic can order the correct prescription inserts.

Even though different prescription inserts may look alike or be of similar size and shape, any "work around" is not recommended. The APEL items are tested as a "unit" with matching inserts to ensure proper protection. Testing has shown that unapproved inserts may shatter upon impact. The shattered pieces can get into the eyes and can possibly cause injury. Starting August 2011, to make identification of authorized products easier, an "APEL" logo will appear on the left temples of all APEL goggles and spectacles.

Keep it simple: look around, ask around, and make Military Combat Eye Protection a part of your readiness. Use it in training and preserve your sight to fight!

To learn more about the MCEP program, the APEL, and to see the latest authorized protective eyewear list, go to <https://peosoldier.army.mil/equipment/eyewear/>.

Brussels Community gives back to those in need

Special to the Gazette

The Brussels Community gave back to those in need April 26. In honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, Charlene O'Sullivan (Victim Advocate), Cindy White (New Parent Support Home Visitor) and Sandra Ward (Family Advocacy Program Manager) delivered food, clothing, toys, and other small household goods to a local battered women's shelter. The vehicle used was packed full of the many items donated through the kind hearts of the community members. When the staff and residents saw the boxes of food, they were very happy. A computer was donated and the staff were already making plans to help the child residents learn to use it. Army Community Services wishes to thank everyone who donated to this worthy cause.



(From left to right) Sandra Ward, Family Advocacy Program Manager, Cindy White, New Parent Support Program Home Visitor, and Charlene O'Sullivan, Victim Advocate delivered the items at the local shelter.

Courtesy Photo

Community gathered at the National Day of Prayer



Chaplain Kevin Pies (picture left), USAG Benelux opens the National Day of Prayer ceremony at Daumerie Caserne Chapel Thursday, May 3, 2012. Chaplain Justin Pickering (picture right), 39th Signal Battalion, leads the prayer for the military at the National Day of Prayer ceremony. (U.S. Army photos by Keith Houin)



German Bundeswehr hosts US Soldiers in competition

Special to the Gazette

U.S. and German Soldiers participated in a German Army marksmanship competition here May 3, giving the U.S. Soldiers the opportunity to earn the German Army marksmanship badge – or “Schützenschnur”.

Gathering at the Standortsschießanlage Niederheid range in Geilenkirchen, Germany, Soldiers exchanged marksmanship advice, fostered camaraderie and fired on a live-fire range to test their skills. By day’s end, they recognized the results.

HHD USAG Schinnen’s Spc. Ronald Chausse and Spc. John Phillips earned the Gold Schützenschnur badge - the highest award. Staff Sgt. Michael Elliott, Staff Sgt. Barbara Balcom, Sgt. Audra Elliott, Sgt. Densier Carnes, Spc. Edward Shin, and Spc. Bradley Andrews earned the silver badge.

The first part of the Schützenschnur requires Soldiers to fire a German Heckler & Koch G36 A1 5.56mm rifle at targets from behind a barrier at 100 meters, then from a prone position at 75 meters and finally from a standing and kneeling position at 50 and 25 meters.

In the second part, Soldiers use a German Army 9mm pistol to fire at targets in the standing position at 25 meters. The final portion is a timed event in which Soldiers have

6 seconds to fire at two targets the prone, kneeling, and standing positions with the pistol.

“The Schützenschnur is a very difficult competition and Soldiers value the opportunity to earn this badge and wear it with their uniform, but they have to prove their skills,” said Capt. Matthew Urban, HHD USAG Schinnen Commander.

“If a Soldier hits all targets perfectly, they earn a gold Schützenschnur badge. If they miss twice on the rifle range, or once on each pistol range, they earn a silver badge. If they miss three times on the rifle range or twice on the pistol range, they earn a bronze badge. Earning any one of these three badges is a great accomplishment,” Urban said.

“This event also meant that U.S. and German Army Soldiers worked together to make it happen. Our Staff Sgt. SSG Michael Elliott received first-class support from the German Delegation’s 1st Lt. Axel Rohmann, Sergeant

Major Thomas Arnhold and the German Bundeswehr unit based in Aachen, Germany.

In July, USAG Schinnen’s Soldiers will reciprocate and host German Army Soldiers as they compete for U.S. Army marksmanship badges.



HHD USAG Schinnen's Staff Sgt. Barbara Balcom receives training and orientation of the German Army's G36 A1 5.56mm rifle from German Army Sergeant Major Thomas Arnhold. Balcom earned the silver Schützenschnur badge May 3, 2012.

Courtesy Photo

community briefs - community briefs - community briefs

Box Tops for Education

StartBox Tops for Education have helped America's schools earn over \$400 million since 1996. You can earn for your child's school by clipping Box Tops coupons from hundreds of participating products. Schools need extra financial help to give our kids a quality education. The Box Tops for Education program helps you earn necessary funds for your school. There is another contest. The grade that collects the most box tops will win a flavor ice pops party. The last date for Box tops collection will be May 24 for the reward party.

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.

Make-A-Wish 5-A-Side Soccer Tournament

Registration is open until May 9 for players born between 1995 and 2001. Tournament is held May 11 starting at 4:30 p.m. Fee is €2 per player. For more information, contact the Youth Sports Office at DSN 423-4409 or civilian 065-44-4409.

Employment & Education Fair at Brunssum, NL

Looking for a Job? Retiring or separating from the military soon? Thinking about furthering your education? The place to be to speak to hiring officials and education representatives and get answers is the Tri-border Employment & Education Fair, May 23, from 10 a.m. -to 1 p.m., at the JFC Conference Center, Ouverbergstraat 1, Brunssum. Local employers who will be present include The Exchange, Commissary, Andrews Federal Credit Union, Community Bank, DFMWR/Child, Youth and School Services, and others. At least one Government contractor (Northrup Grumman) will also be there recruiting for positions in the U.S. and throughout Europe. Information will be available for positions with MSEP (Military Spouse Employment Partnership) companies like Walmart, Amazon, and others, including working from home opportunities, and other information on hiring veterans will be available.

Representatives from the Education Center, Central Texas College, University of Maryland, University of Oklahoma, and Embry Riddle University will be present to discuss degrees offered, upcoming classes, and registration procedures. Experts will be available to answer questions and provide information on the new GI Bill, scholarships, Military Spouse Career Accounts, computer lab, and testing programs. You will also be able to get information on volunteer opportunities throughout the Tri-Border community. For more information, call ACS at DSN 360-7269/7500 or civilian +31(0) 46-443-7269/7500.

Military and Family Life Consultant Program

The Military and Family Life Consultant Program provides non-medical short-term, situational problem-solving counseling to service members and their families. It also provides education to help service members and families understand the impact of stress, deployments, family reunions following deployments and the stresses of military life. Services are provided on-demand, on or off installations to individuals, couples, families and groups. Services are confidential and

private, except for duty-to-warn situations. A Military and Family Life Consultant is available at Caserne Daumerie and can be contacted at 0497-653738.

CYSS Summer camp

The School Age Center is offers 10 weeks of action packed activities for children ages 6-12. Campers will have the opportunity to join a clubs, engage in rotating activities, 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 daily in combination with individual and team games. Field trips are subject to change due to availability and weather conditions. Registration is open now. For information call Parent Central Services DSN 423-5612 or civilian 065-44-5612 or School Age Center DSN 423-6079 or civilian 065-44-6079 or visit <http://usag-beneluxcyss.blogspot.com> or <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/shappecyms.html>.

CYSS Summer trips

- **Italy Express 8 though 13 July.** Travel by coach to the Tuscany region of Italy. Visit of the leaning Tower of Pisa, Carrara marble quarries, Cinque Terre and hike along the coast, Lucca and a wall walk, American Beach. Pool time, sleeping in tents and cooking over the campfire. Fee is \$325.
- **Conquering Summer 6 though 10 August.** Travel by coach to De Kempervennen, Netherlands. Activities: Climbing wall, flying fox, pedal boats, high adventure experience, wild water rafting, bike riding, water slides, pool tome. Sleeping in an 8 people cabin and preparing your own meals. Fee is \$350.

For more information contact DSN 423-5612/6104 or civilian 065-44-5612/6104.

DD-214's are now on-line

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following web site for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's on-line at www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records. This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes.

Chièvres Commissary

During warm weather and barbecue season your Commissary experiences a huge increase in sales relating to barbecue items to include hotdogs, hamburgers, bratwursts, buns and condiments. The critical part of ordering for your party or function is giving the commissary enough time to order and receive the quantities you need. Most of the items stocked in your commissary come from our central distribution centers in Germany and are ordered 10 days in advance. Commissary staff can special order any item in the commissary in any quantity you need if given enough lead time. Not giving the commissary enough advance notice of the requirements for your special function normally results in the event planners taking everything off your commissary shelves. Doing this leaves nothing for the rest of the commissary patrons that want these items. This problem can be easily avoided by contacting DSN 361-6480 or civilian 068-27-6480.


BENELUX NEWS

BENELUX NEWS


Belgian economy grew 0.3%

During the first three months of the year, Belgian economy has grown 0.3%. The steady growth in the first months of 2012 contrasts with the last quarter of 2011 when the Belgian economy shrank by 0.1%. On the other hand, inflation should not exceed 3% in 2012. Last year Belgian inflation stood at 3.5%. Belgian prices won't rise as fast as anticipated. This is largely the result of the price cuts announced by energy supplier Electrabel. But it's not all good news. In April 2012 there were a record number of bankruptcies for a month of April. Nine hundred businesses went bankrupt last month. The hospitality industry with pubs, cafes and restaurants was particularly badly hit. The figure is up by a quarter on a year ago.

The Dutch have little patience

Dutch consumers are most likely to lose their cool when confronted with poor customer service, according to a survey of 11 countries by credit card firm American Express. One in three Dutch people have slammed down the phone on customer service staff and 25% have threatened to move their business to a competitor, the survey shows.

Sensitive information stolen

A group of hackers has stolen sensitive information from Elantis, a subsidiary of Belfius Bank, the former Dexia Bank Belgium. The hackers are demanding an idiocy tax of 150,000 euros in order not to release the sensitive client information. The information is said to include identity card numbers and salary information. The hackers say that they will publish the information on the internet if a ransom of 150,000 euros is not paid before Friday 4 May.

Cars damaged on Brussels ring

A large number of cars have been damaged on the Brussels ring as a result of road works that had been poorly signposted. The incidents happened at Groot-Bijgaarden after the top surface layer of the motorway had been removed. The difficult situation had been signposted but the signs were not clearly visible to motorists. The uneven edge at the start of the road works has now been tackled to ensure that it poses less of a danger to cars and their drivers. Drivers who suffered damage should report it to the police and their insurance company.

Unemployment in the Euro zone

The unemployment rate in the Euro zone has reached a new record high in March with 10.9 percent, the highest since 1997 and the highest since the creation of the Euro zone. Some 17.3 million people were unemployed in the Euro zone in March, i.e. close to 170,000 more than in February and 1.7 million more than in March of 2011. The countries with the lowest unemployment rate are

Austria (4 percent,) the Netherlands (5 percent,) Luxembourg (5.2 percent,) and Germany (5.6 percent) while the highest rates are in Spain (24.1 percent) and in Greece (21.7 percent).

Ajax wins 31st league title

A 2-0 home win against VVV-Venlo gave Amsterdam football club Ajax their 31st league title last Wednesday night. Hundreds of fans celebrated the victory with fireworks after the match was over and there were several arrests. Feyenoord of Rotterdam hung on to second place with a 4-1 win over Heracles and with one match still to play, Feyenoord is one point ahead of PSV Eindhoven.

DSM buys U.S. biomedical group

Limburg-based chemicals group DSM has reached agreement to buy U.S. biomedical products group Kensey Nash for \$360m in an all-cash deal. Biomedical is one of DSM's three key emerging business divisions which the company hopes will generate €1bn in sales by 2020.

Expats in Belgium

A study carried out by a Flemish Professor reveals that the main reason why expats do not learn Dutch is not because they do not like that language but because they are opposed to the measures that Flanders imposes the use of Dutch and prohibits the use of French. While Flanders has a program of civic integration for immigrants including Dutch language lessons, expats are exempt, although they are "invited" to learn Dutch.

Dutch underground gas storage

Last week, the Dutch Supreme Court cleared the way for huge quantities of natural gas to be stored underground near Alkmaar, despite local and environmental group protests. A subsidiary company of the Abu Dhabi national energy company, plans to inject natural gas into an empty gas reservoir over two kilometers deep under the Bergermeer polder. This would create the biggest natural gas storage facility in mainland Europe. It is part of Dutch government efforts to turn the Netherlands into a European gas hub and would contain over four billion cubic meters of gas - enough to supply 1.6 million Dutch households for a year.

Next U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands

Washington lawyer Timothy Broas has been nominated as the next U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands. Broas is a partner in law firm Winston & Strawn, which has offices in 15 countries. According to the firm's website, he specializes in white collar and internal investigations and was named in the 2010, 2011, and 2012 editions of Best Lawyers in America. The senate has to vote in favor of the nomination before Broas officially has the job.



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

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.
- **BELvue weekends (Breakfast + museum visit) in Brussels.** Every weekend enjoy a breakfast including 1 tea/coffee/hot chocolate/orange juice + an assortment of 3 pastries and tour the museum. Price is €8 for adults and €4 under 18. More information on www.belvue.be/BELvue/news.aspx?id=290520&LangType=1033.

Through 2 September

- **Water for all...and all for water! exhibition in Brussels** at the Atomium. More information on www.atomium.be/water.aspx.



12 May

- **Flea market in Brugelette** on the Grand'Place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (20 booths)
- **Flower market in Dour** on the Place Verte from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (8 booths)
- **Flea market in Etterbeek** on Avenue des Casernes and Rue Nothomb from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (100 booths)



This column is events within close distance from Brunssum and Schinnen

Through 20 May

- **The Netherlands' world famous Keukenhof Gardens**

near the town of Lisse (NL) opened 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.

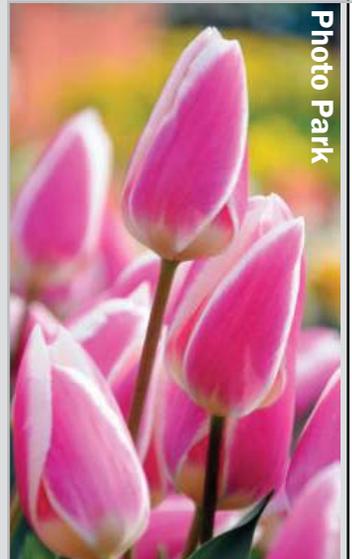


Photo Park

Through 27 June

- **Sand Sculpture Festival in Scheveningen** held at the beach and Boulevard of Scheveningen (NL). The art of sand sculting is relatively new and was first introduced to the European public in 1991 in Scheveningen. Since then more and more artists have focused on this creative art form. The sculptures in Scheveningen are designed by international artists.

Through 2 September

- **Cheese Market in Alkmaar** -- The city of Alkmaar (NL) is famous worldwide for its cheese market. Cheese has been weighed in Alkmaar since 1593. Cheese carriers carry thousands of kilos of cheese from 'Waagplein' square to the weighing house. What used to be serious business has turned into a popular attraction for thousands of tourists. Cheese carriers can be seen in action every Friday between 10 a.m. and noon until the first Friday of September. You'll be surprised at how important cheese used to be and still is for the city of Alkmaar.

Through 7 October

- **Floriade 2012 in Venlo** - 'World Horticulturale Expo'. This large horticultural fair takes place every 10 years. This year the fair/show can be found in Venlo (NL) and has, besides Europe's largest indoor flower exhibition, more than 100 participants from all over the world. More info: www.floriade.com.

12 May continued

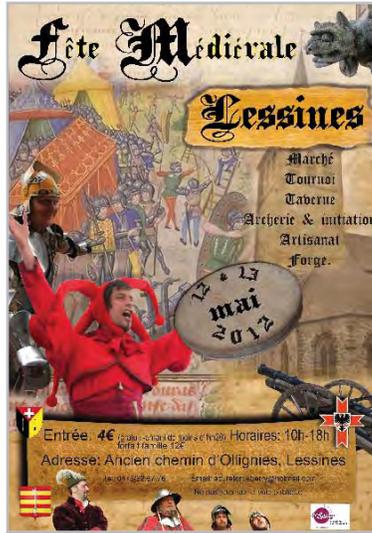
- **Flea market in Fayt-Lez-Manage** at the Cité Corderie from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. (150 booths)
- **Flea market in Monceau-Sur-Sambre** on the Place Albert 1er from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. (100 booths)
- **Flea market in Mons** on the Quartier du Trieu from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (80 booths)
- **Flea market in Saint-Josse-Ten-Noode** on Chaussée d'Haecht from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (200 booths)
- **Flea market in Ganshoren** on Avenue Charles Quint from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (70 booths)

12-13 May

- **Medieval fair in Lessines** on Chemin d'Ollignies 10F from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entrance fee is €4. Family price is €12.

13 May

- **Volksmarch in Auderghem** for 5, 11, 15, 22, 31 km. Departure is from the Avenue de la Sablière 2 from 8a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Chaussee-Notre-Dame** for 4, 6, 12, 21 km. Departure is from Joseph Quintart 129 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Nivelles** for 5, 10, 15, 20 km. Departure is from the Rue Clarisse 10 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Hoves** for 5, 10, 15, 20 km. Departure is from the square 11 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Naast** for 5, 10, 15, 20 km. Departure is from the Rue du Moulin 9 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Lamain** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is from the Rue Louis Pion from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Archive photo

- **Volksmarch in Ormeignies** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departure is from the square from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Tertre** for 5, 10, 15, 20 km. Departure is from the Rue Léon Laurent 14 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Aiseau-Presles** on Rue JF Kennedy from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. (150 booths)
- **Crafts and flea market in Baulers** on Avenue de la gare from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (250 booths)

7 May

- **European Opera Days in Liège** at Opéra Royal de Wallonie, Rue des Dominicains. Every year, on the weekend closest to May 9 (Europe Day) European opera houses open their doors to novices and buffs to celebrate opera and the talent of singers. More than 100 opera houses in Europe are celebrating this edition. They not only demonstrate how vital opera singing is but also how it forms an integral part of history, the city and cultural heritage of every citizen.

May 11-12

- **The International Jazz Festival** at Palais des Congrès, Esplanade de l'Europe in Liège (BE) is a prestigious jazz gathering of national and international stars. All jazz styles will be played.

May 11-13

- **Garden Fair at the beautiful park of Castle Beervelde, Beervelde-Dorp in Beervelde (BE)** with flowers, plants, decorations and antiques for your garden. Entry: €10; 14 and younger – free entrance. Open all days 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Italian Fest in and around Castle “de Haar” on Kasteellaan 1 in Haarzuilens (NL)** with Italian fashion, music, fashion shows, food, wine and all kind of activities and entertainment. Entry: €15; children 11 and younger – free entrance. Open: daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. On May 12 also open from 6:30 to 10 p.m. for Italian Night.
- **Wine and Music Fest at the Market Square in Xanten (GE)** with many participating German vineyards displaying their delicious wines.

May 12

- **The “Griet” Market** is a one day cultural and green event with art, green products, street artists and lots more held at the attractive square across the Castle Amerongen in the town of Amerongen (NL).
- **Large Farmers Market** with many regional products, curiosa, gifts, decorations and more held at the “De Schaffelaar” Estate, Stationsweg in Barneveld (NL). Entry is free.

May 12-13

- **Dutch National Windmill Days.** Hundreds of wind and watermills throughout the Netherlands welcome the public during this annual weekend. A blue ribbon on or near the mill means you can visit.
- **Mama’s Pride** is an annual pop festival held at Burgemeester Damenpark in Geleen (NL). The program can be seen at www.mamaspride.nl. Entry is free. Open: May 12, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. and May 13, 1 to 9 p.m.



13 May continued

- **Crafts and flea market in Casteau** on chaussée de Bruxelles at the Café le XIII from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (150 booths)
- **Local products fair in Etterbeek** on Avenue de Tervuren from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Flea market in Etterbeek** on Rue des Tongres from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (80 booths)
- **Crafts market, flea market and collectors fair in Hellevie** at the Château from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Jauche** on Rue de Flox-les-Caves from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (300 booths)
- **Volksmarch in Heze** for 5, 10, 15, 20 km. Departure is from the Avenue Félix Lacourt from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Archive photo

- **Mountain bike ride in Mont-Saint-Guibert** for 15, 35, 55 km. Departure is from Rue des Ecoles 2 from 8 to 11 a.m. Showers and bike wash available. Price ranges from 3€ to 4€. (450 participants in 2011)
- **Mountain bike ride in Beaumont** for 5, 21, 24, 32, 45, 56, 77 km. Departure is from the soccer field on Chemin de Buse from 7:30 to 11 a.m. Showers and bike wash available. Price is €5.
- **Mountain bike ride in Vieux-Leuze** for 20, 35, 45, 55, 65, 85 km. Departure is from Chemin du Sart 2A from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Bike wash available. Price ranges from 2€ to 6€.



Archive photo



May 12-13 continued

- **During the Virgin Open Days**, held at the Virgin Flight Center, Gilzerbaan 495 in Tilburg (NL), several regional and local companies will introduce their outdoor and adventure activities such as balloon rides, helicopter flights and lots more.
- **Kapuzinermarkt** is a medieval market at Castle Wassenberg in the town of Wassenberg (GE) near Geilenkirchen with attractions, demonstrations, shows, knights tourney and lots of history. Open: 1 p.m. to 1 a.m., May 12 and 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., May 13.

May 12-14

- **BAAF – Brussels Accessible Art Fair** is a unique initiative at Conrad Hotel, Avenue Louise 71 in Brussels (BE) attracting visitors ranging from first time art buyers to art collectors on the lookout for new talent. Discover the works of more than 50 international artists residing in Belgium. There will be paintings, sculptures, photos, prints and lots more. Free entrance. Open: May 12, 6 to 10 p.m. and May 13-14, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Festival of International Specialties** with samplings, wines, gastronomy and products from all over the world at Rue Saint Jacques in Dinant (BE). Open: May 12, noon to 10 p.m.; May 13, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and May 14, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

May 13

- **Beguinaage Fest** – Strawberry Day at Begijnestraat in Diest (BE). The beautiful historic Beguinaage in Diest is the location of an attractive culinary market with all kind of regional products and delicious Belgian strawberries. No entrance fees. Open: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Regional Products Market** is held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the beautiful center of the picturesque town of Lo (BE).
- **Garden Fair** in the center of Munsterbilzen (BE); open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **“HamerSlag-Dag”** is an attractive old crafts market held at the Saint Peter Mill on Nijken 24 in Roggel (NL) with all kind of demonstrations, old crafts and a chance to visit the windmill.



Trips and Tours information is published one month prior to the actual event or the registration deadline, whichever comes first.

SHAPE Trips & Tours

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

- **Champagne Tour for Mother's Day, May 12** - Treat Mom to a relaxing day out in the Champagne Region of France. Trip begins with a stop in Reims where we will have a few hours to enjoy lunch (not included), shop, take a stroll to the famous Cathedral of Notre Dame in Reims, or tour the beautiful old bishops' palace, the Basilica and Abbey Museum of St. Remi. We will then continue with a photo stop at the church where Dom Perignon, the monk credited with inventing this bubbly masterpiece, is buried. Our final destination is Epernay where we will visit the famous Champagne Caves of Mercier. An elevator with a panoramic view will take us down 30 meter below ground to the cellars. We will then tour a portion of the 18 km of caves on a laser guided train. We will end the tour with a complimentary Champagne tasting. Price: €75 Adults, €60 Youth (10-17 yrs), €55 Children (0-9 yrs). Departs SHAPE at 8:30 a.m. and returns SHAPE at 10 p.m. Departs Brussels at 7:30 a.m. and returns Brussels at 11 p.m.
- **London Weekend, May 26-28** - Check out Big Ben, take a river cruise on the Thames, ride the London Eye, people watch in Trafalgar Square, hike up the geometric staircase at St. Paul's Cathedral, or spend some time in the West End theatre district. Price: 390€ Single, 275€ per person double/twin/triple. *Children 5-12 210€, * Children 0-4 150€ (*when sharing a room with 2 fully paid guests) Departs SHAPE 7:a.m. Saturday, Returns SHAPE 11:30 p.m. Monday. Departs Brussels 6 a.m. Saturday. Returns Brussels 12:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Schinnen Trips and Tours

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

- **Day Trip to Amsterdam, May 12** - Visit the capital of the Netherlands. Departs Schinnen at 7 a.m. and arrival in Amsterdam at approximately 10 a.m. Departs 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)46-443-7561.
- **Weekend Trip to Paris, July 13-16 - Registration prior to 11 May.** Visit the capital of France and see some of its beautiful sights. Cost is \$379 pp in twin or double room and \$549 pp in Single room. There are only 3 triple rooms available. These are equipped with 1 X 2 person bed & 1 X single bed. Two adults \$379 each and 1 child (0-3) \$249 or 3 adults in Triple room \$379.00 each. Included in tour Price: Round trip Luxury Coach Transportation; 3 Night Bed & Breakfast. We will stay in the Hotel Ibis Paris Berthier Porte de Clichy. Assigned seating on first come & pay basis. Register with down payment \$200.00 per person. This trip requires a minimum of 40 participants.

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.*

- **Cochem/Moselle with optional wine tasting, May 11** - Excursion to the town of Cochem on the Moselle River. Sign up for the optional wine tasting then time on your own or explore on your own completely: river cruise, hiking, mustard factory, restaurants. Price is €35. The wine tasting option is an additional cost of €7.50 and includes the tasting of 6 different wines. Time will be given to see Cochem's sites on your own both before and after the wine tasting. If you prefer to explore the town on your own, it offers a wide range of restaurants and traditional Weinstuben. Climb up (or take the little train) to visit historic Cochem Castle (Reichsburg) with fantastic views or board a Moselle River cruise boat. Cochem is famous for its mustard and the Senfmühle (mustard mill) is a working museum with a wide variety of mustards. Departs SHAPE at 5:45 a.m. and returns at 11 p.m.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

9 May

- **MWR Bingo** - Bingo at the Warrior Zone on Caserne Daumerie. Doors open at 5 p.m. Play begins at 6:30 p.m. Game cards \$3 each. Pack of 10 game cards, \$20. Mini Jackpot entry, \$5 plus purchase of 10 game cards. Jackpot entry \$7 plus purchase of 10 game cards. The Mini Jackpot prize Apple iPad 2. Jackpot prize 52" LED Television. For more DSN 361-5643 or civilian 068-27-5643.
- **USAF Rib Cook Off** - Takes place at SHAPE, Bldg. 220 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Each contestant must supply two racks. Ribs may be wet or dry. Pork or beef. Enter your best rib recipe to win. Lunch special is \$5/€5. For more information contact DSN 366-6615 or civilian 065-32-6615.

16 May

- **SHAPE International Library's monthly book discussion group** - meets at 5:30 p.m. to discuss *The Leftovers* by Tom Perrotta. No registration nor fee required. For more information or to reserve a copy of the book contact DSN 423-5631 or civilian 065-44-5631, email at shape.library@eur.army.mil or stop by during regular hours.

18 May

- **Dodgeball Tournament** - Takes place from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the High School Gym. Registration is open througho 17 May for children 7 to 12. Registration is free. For more information contact DSN 423-5610 or civilian 065-44-5610.

24 May

- **The Illuminati** - meets at 4:30 p.m. to discuss *This Dark Endeavor* by Kenneth Oppel, a popular young adult fiction chosen by members. No registration nor fee required. For more informaiton or to reserve a copy of the book contact DSN 423-5631 or civilian 065-44-5631, email at shape.library@eur.army.mil or stop by during regular hours.
- **Investing Bascis Seminar (including the New Roth TSP)** - Learn how to make sense of bonds, stocks, mutual funds, IRAs, the TSP (your 401k) and more. Meets from 2 to 3 p.m. at ACS, Bldg. 318 in SHAPE. For information contact DSN 423-5324 or civilian 065-44-5324.

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

Brussels Health Clinic - Limited service 17-18 May, lab, X-ray, pharmacy, tricare and appointment booking only. No Provider. Close half day May 25 at noon for training holiday, acute care service only. No Provider. Closed all day May 28 for Memorial Day, no service.

Brussel Dental Clinic - Closed all day May 9 for COC. Limited sercice May 11, appointment booking Only. No provider. Closed all day May 22 for COC. Limited service May 23-30, appointment booking only. No Provider.

On the training holiday the following applies: acute care only due to minimal staffing and limited services. There will be pharmacy services. 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 amd/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.
- For dental urgent care (for appointments only - no walk-ins). Universitaire Ziekenhuizen Saint Rafael - Dental Clinic (Tandheelkunde) Kapucijnenvoer 33, 3000 Leuven, civilian 016-332477.
- 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.

Community Roundup

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

10 May

- **Italian Night** - In lieu of its normally scheduled Taco Night, the 3-Star Recreation Center invites the Brussels community to "Italian Night" beginning at 5:30 p.m. All you can eat spaghetti, an assortment of breads, and salad. The cost is \$8 for patrons 11 years and older and \$6 for patrons 10 years and under. For more information contact the 3-Star Recreation Center at DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-717-9822.

12 May

- **Yard Sale & Brocante** - Join MWR for this year's community wide yard sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at USAG Brussels. PCSing? Spring Cleaning? Purchase your seller's permit at the Brussels Consignment Shop, today. For more information contact Special Events at DSN 368-9763 or civilian 02-717-9763.

13 May

- **Mothers Day Breakfast/Brunch** - Meets from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the 3 Star Recreation Center. Price is \$8 per plate for 13 years old and over and \$6 per plate for kids 12 years old and under. Enjoy pancakes, hard boiled eggs, biscuits and gravy, turkey bacon, sausage, fruit, juice and coffee. For more information contact the 3 Star Recreation Center at DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-717-9822.

18 May

- **Texas Hold'em** - Open to all ID card holders at the 3 Star Recreation Center. Registration at 6 p.m. and first deal at 7 p.m. \$25 buy-in includes food. For more information call the 3 star Recreation Center at DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-717-9822.

BRUNSSUM/SCHINNEN COMMUNITY

8 May

- **Tri-Border Town Hall meeting** - Tri-Border residents are invited to the semi-annual Town Hall Meeting to meet community leaders and receive first-hand updates of major changes and events going on in our community. Leaders from GK NATO Air Base, JFC Brunssum and USAG Schinnen will be on hand as well as representatives from many community service providers. Doors open 4:15 p.m., meeting is from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

9 May

- **Parent Advisory Group Meeting** - The Parent Advisory meeting will be noon 1 p.m. at the Alliance Restaurant on JFC Brunssum. Call 0031(0)45-526-3008 for more information.

10 May

- **EFMP Support Group** - The Exceptional Family Member Program support group meets noon May 10 at Schinnen ACS. Bring your lunch for this friendly get-together.

11 May

- **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 0031(0)45-526-3121 or stop by to make your reservation. Open to CYSS Registered Children Infant-6th Grade. Fees are non-refundable. Call 31(0)45-526-3008 for details.

15 May

- **Resume Writing Class** - Learn how to write more effective resumes that highlight and market your knowledge, skills and abilities. We will review styles, examine job announcements and discuss effectively presenting your experience to get your resume noticed. Class is 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Schinnen ACS Conference Room. For information and to register call 0031(0)46-443-7500.

16 May

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

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