Benelux Meteor

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Quick Read

In General

Command changes
Command of the 80th Area Support Group will change in a ceremony set for June 22, 11 a.m., at the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base. Col. Timothy J. Quinn will relinquish command to Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski. The public is invited. Suggested dress for the occasion is duty uniform for military members and coat and tie for civilians. Info: DSN 361-5419.

Cheer camp planned
Kaiserslautern High School hosts a Universal Cheer Association camp Sept. 3-5 for prospective high school cheerleaders in grades 9-12. The cost is $95 per student, and may be paid at the door. A coach's camp is Sept. 3, cost TBA. Info: Jane_Varalli@eu.odedodea.edu or DSN 489-7541, civilian 0631 54354.

Belgium

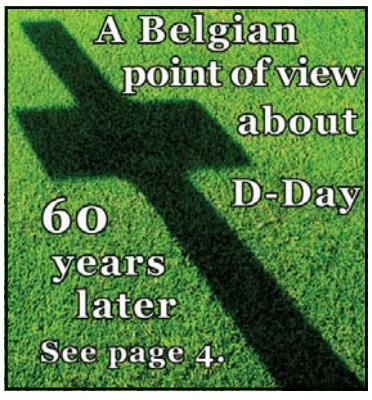
Group helps parents
Exceptional Family Member Program has a new Pervasive Developmental Disorder Parent Group that meets June 22, 10–11:30 a.m. at ACS, Building 318, second floor, SHAPE. Info: Mary Prince, DSN 423-7461.

Chapel hosts activities
NSA Chapel (02/717-9708) Fellowship and BBQ, July 4, 10:30 a.m.; youth summer camp for ages 13-19, July 19-25, sign up by June 20; Vacation Bible School July 26-30.

Netherlands and Germany

Camp promises fun for kids
Youth Services Summer Camp is June 21-Aug. 13 in Building H603 at AFNorth. Summer Camp offers water sport camp at Kerkrdriel, NL and lessons in sailing, canoeing, raft building and windsurfing June 21-25. Summer Camp has morning and afternoon sessions. Info: 00 31 45 526-3595 or DSN 364-3595.

Commissary observes holiday
The Schinnen Commissary closes July 4 in observance of U.S. Independence Day.



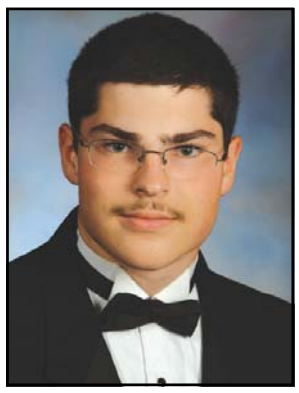
PHOTOS: F. Neil Neeley

The 39 members of Brussels American School Class of 2004 toss their "mortarboard" caps June 4 following their graduation ceremony in the Gothic room of the Hotel de Ville on Brussels' Grand Place.

Brussels American School

By F. Neil Neeley

The 2004 graduating class of Brussels American High School might have been a small one but they were given a big sendoff. The 39 graduates received their diplomas in a ceremony held in the Gothic room of the Hotel de Ville on Brussels' Grand Place.



Peter Macko
Valedictorian
Class of 2004
Brussels American School

The Gothic room is a beautiful huge wooden paneled affair replete with ornate carvings and antique tapestries. It was completely packed with over 250 family members, faculty and well wishers.

Commencement speaker John Vahren-horst addressed the 19 U.S. and 15 international graduates. Vahrenhorst is a Brussels American high school coach and teacher. He stressed the benefits of education in a multinational, multicultural environment. Vahrenhorst suggested that seniors graduating from Fairfax Virginia wouldn't have experienced such a diverse educational experience.

"If someone mentions Georgia, you'll ask 'The country or the state?'" he said. "Some of you have learned some basic phrases in Romanian, Russian, Flemish, Macedonian and even Canadian."

Vahrenhorst challenged the graduates to keep an inquiring mind. "I hope you'll continue to scrutinize and be skeptical and maintain your own individual integrity," he said. "At your next station you'll be facing some enchanting ideas, some good and some not so good. You will most likely have professors who wouldn't dream of hiding their political convictions let alone make strides to provide you with a true balance regarding the history and politics that go with the situation. Don't trust anyone who says 'the research shows' but then fails to show the research; Say, 'Show me'"

Mike Arena
Salutatorian
Class of 2004
Brussels American School

Vahrenhorst's left hand was in a plaster cast because of an injury received in a softball game with the seniors on field day. Raising it he said, "Graduates, I will remember you for at least four weeks. But seriously, you will be recalled with fondness and with great expectations."

Slovakian Peter Macko was named valedictorian. Macko will attend Brandeis University on a full Wien International Scholarship, where he will major in computer science.

Salutatorian Mike Arena will attend University of Florida at Gaines-ville, where he plans to study in the College of Pharmacy.

At the conclusion of the ceremony flowers were presented to parents and faculty. Tears were shed and hugs exchanged as the graduates filed into the reception in a nearby room.

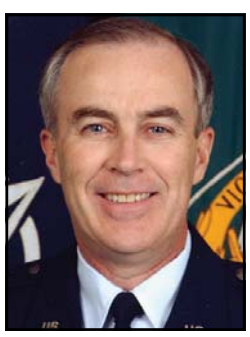
SHAPE High School

By Rick Haverinen

SHAPE American High School graduated 72 students in the Class of 2004 in a June 10 ceremony at Saint Waudru's Collegiate Church in Mons.

Although American in name, the graduating class also included 22 members from Spain, Italy, Germany, Argentina, Turkey, Poland, Canada, Hungary, Norway and Bulgaria.

The international setting for the ceremony and composition of the graduating class got the attention of keynote speaker Maj. Gen. Joseph Stein, Assistant Chief of Staff, SHAPE Operations Division.



Maj. Gen. Stein

"You've experienced the ability to travel across this great continent and many far beyond that," Stein told the class. "When I was growing up, if I was to travel across the river from South Jersey to Pennsylvania, that was a big deal. The point here struck me squarely between the eyes. My daughter went to school here in Belgium, and then moved back to the States, where she had a French teacher who talked with her, and Jackie said, 'You know, Dad, she speaks better French than I do technically, but she's never been to Paris. I can tell. She's never been anywhere in France.' That's experience. That's what you carry with you."

Members of the class went on various school trips to Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and France. This year SHAPE American High School captured European championships

See GRADUATES, Page 5.

Student relocation requires off-line study

By Jan Fillman

Ramona Moraska and Garrett Gosch were graduated June 10 from SHAPE American High School. They are just as happy as the other 70 graduates, but unlike some of their peers, they have faced the challenge of transferring fairly late in their secondary education from public stateside schools into the DoDDS-Europe school here at SHAPE. Are the challenges any different than those faced by tens of thousands of kids who preceded them in moving to Europe?

Fillman

Ramona Moraska, called Mona by her friends, transferred from school in Fayetteville, N.C. after her junior year. She had a few minor difficulties with her move, like getting her previous transcript here to her new school and a requirement to take a class in U.S. government. Computer class requirements are also not standardized.

"I had a problem with that because in North Carolina, you take a test, and you don't have to take computer courses any more," Moraska said. "So when you get here, it's required that you take them again. Other than that, I think it wasn't that bad for me."

Overall, she said the most difficult problem area for her was adapting to the different teaching styles and higher expectations at SHAPE American.

Moraska's advice to others who transfer from one school to another is to quickly exercise social skills.

"The best way to transfer is to get involved," Moraska said. "When I first got here I didn't know anybody. The only parent here was my dad and he worked all the time. So I got involved with the Red Cross and I met my best friends from there. Also when the school started, I went into cross country, which I never thought I would do, but I thought I'd try it. And that got me involved with a lot of other people and a lot of other nationalities so when I went around the school it was nice to hear someone say, 'Oh hi,' and you felt more at home and it helps you. It improved my outlook on wanting to go to school and doing good. It just helped a lot more."

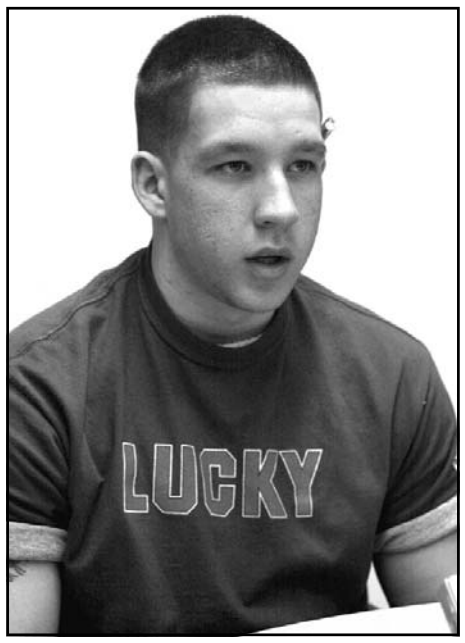
Ramona Moraska moved to SHAPE with her father in July last year and had trouple getting her transcripts from her Stateside school.

PHOTOS: F. Neil Neeley

She also said that the students here were welcoming, open-minded, and not too cliquish which she found refreshing.

Moraska plans to attend the University of North Florida to study sports science or physical therapy. She said her classes at SHAPE were harder, especially the advanced placement or AP classes, and the teachers were stricter; but she soon recovered from an initial drop in grades and improved her study skills and time management— both skills she knows will be very important in college.

Gosch moved to SHAPE from Orlando, Fla. at the start of his junior year. He thought the move was perhaps less intimidating than moving to another large school like his public school in Orlando, but he did have a few problems that are common to many transferees. He found that the process was made more difficult by the difference between Florida and DoDDS graduation requirements.



Garrett Gosch was surprised when he came to SHAPE American High School and discovered he needed two years of a foreign language to satisfy academic requirements.

"The biggest problem was coming from a public school in Florida where a foreign language wasn't required," Gosch said. "It was only recommended if you wanted to go to college. And so I didn't take one in ninth and tenth grades, and then I got over here and you have to have two consecutive years of the same language. So I had to take Spanish last year and this year."

With the wisdom of a graduating senior, Gosch understands that knowledge will carry him in good stead.

"As much as I didn't like to have to take those classes when I came here, in the long run it's better for me to have some knowledge of another language," Gosch said. "It's going to help me no matter what I do. I could have stayed in a public school and not taken a language and then if I did decide to go to college, I would have had to take one anyway. I would have been starting over from scratch."

DoDD's surprise foreign language requirement enables Grosch to share advice from the non-academic lesson learned.

"Just from my experience, make sure you find out where you're going first and find out if there are any discrepancies in the credits or the classes that are offered or the requirements for graduation," Grosch said.

Gosch's plans include a stint with the U.S. Coast Guard as a firefighter after graduation. After having grown up in a very civilian environment, he has gained a new appreciation for military kids, their upbringing and their priorities in life. Grosch liked the small school here because it gave him the opportunity to build stronger, more trusting relationships with a few friends that he saw every day. While his grades have improved throughout his high school career, he believes that is due more to his own internal motivation, maturity, and improved work habits than anything else.

Moraska and Gosch have obviously made the most of their initially unwelcome move to SHAPE so late in their high school years. While many things have gotten faster and easier because of technology and instant communication, the really important aspects of moving for teens will never change. The people you come in contact with along the way will always be the most important thing in making a difficult transition easier.

"Friends are very important," Moraska said. "When you don't have your parents, you have your friends."

Fillman is 80th Area Support Group School Liaison.

Stint as D.A.R.E. officer might lead to teaching career

By F. Neil Neeley

It's kind of unusual to say that a Soldier is a natural born teacher but Sgt. Jeremy Thomas is just that. Thomas is NATO Support Activity's Drug Abuse Resistance Education sergeant but no matter whether he's at the elementary school teaching D.A.R.E. or teaching Soldiers common tasks, everyone agrees that he is the best at what he does.

Thomas

Thomas didn't start out to be a teacher. He was firmly grounded in law enforcement until the D.A.R.E. job opened up at NSA.

"I was working as a desk sergeant," Thomas said. "They said that they needed a new D.A.R.E. sergeant the next year. Then I said, 'I'll go do it, I'll give it a shot.'"

After Thomas finished the D.A.R.E. training, his life changed.

"Since I've been in the classroom with D.A.R.E., I started to swerve toward education," he said. "Now, that's where I think my life path might be."

Bryant

Thomas said he regrets that he already has a lot of time invested in a pursuing a degree in criminal justice. "I'll probably finish that and start focusing on education," he said.

Thomas has received a lot of encouragement towards a career in education from Brussels American School fifth grade teacher Annie Bryant and vice principal Tony Carmella. "Ms. Bryant said that staying with D.O.D. as a teacher with DoDDS is the best way to go," Thomas said. "I'm really considering it; I can see me doing that in maybe twenty years."

With eight years of Army service under his belt, Thomas said he'll probably make the Army a career. "Maybe I'll retire and become a teacher. I've been looking into the Troops to Teachers program."

Bryant characterizes Thomas' work as a D.A.R.E. sergeant as excellent. "He is very active with our students, not only with the D.A.R.E. program but with other community types of programs such as youth services," Bryant said. "He's very visible on our school's campus. Our students know that if there are problems and there's somebody they need to talk to, they can talk to Sgt. Thomas."

Thomas is active in the community as a volunteer with various youth programs. "I do a lot of stuff with youth services," Thomas said. "I coach baseball and soccer. Often when the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts need their badges in safety or drug awareness classes, I'll teach the class. Pretty much anywhere that people speak up and ask for help, I go out there and help them."

Popp

Thomas credits M.P. station commander Sgt. 1st Class Arlene Popp with allowing him time to do volunteer work.

Popp says that Thomas' work with D.A.R.E. and the kids really impressed her. "Teachers would come up and tell me what an excellent job he's doing," she said. "I know he's doing a great job not only with D.A.R.E. but as a Soldier and N.C.O. Besides his D.A.R.E. duties he also works as a desk sergeant and conducts weapons training as well as military police training."

Popp also has total confidence in Thomas' reliability. "If I need something done, I wouldn't hesitate to ask him to do it," she said. "I'll tell him what I need and he'll take it and run with it. Wherever I'm stationed after I leave here, I'll wish I could take him with me because he's an outstanding soldier."

Siegenthaler

Never one to publicly seek the limelight Thomas gets his reward in other ways. "He doesn't do things because he wants people to think he's great, he does it because he enjoys motivating other people," said Capt. Amy Siegenthaler, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment commander for NATO Support Activity in Brussels.

Williford

Thomas' squad leader, Staff Sgt. Michael Williford, agrees. "We knew that he did a lot so we asked him for everything that he'd done as a volunteer so that he could be recognized," Williford said. "He refused."

Siegenthaler added that Thomas is, "a very quiet professional. I think that it shows through everything he does, whether it's training Soldiers or being around the kids. He has a knack for working with people whether it's teaching how to shoot a weapon or working with the D.A.R.E. program."

Thomas hails from northern Maine and likes to make that distinction clear. "I like to separate myself from southern Maine because that's the commercial part," he said. "Every now and then that Maine accent will pop out. Ayah."

Thomas' first military assignment was in Texas where he also picked up some of the Texas twang. He says that every so often that accent will pop out too.

Learning from a distance

PHOTO: Paula J. Guzman, 7 ATC Public Affairs

Instructor Scott Rosenke teaches a class called "Effective Leadership Using Emotional Intelligence" in March on Chièvres Air Base without leaving his classroom in Vilseck. Distance learning makes it possible to offer classes to multiple Army community locations in Europe at the same time. Computers connected in a network with cameras, monitors and a microphone system make this learning system possible.

By F. Neil Neeley

Students from Chièvres, SHAPE and Schinnen joined scholars from Kaiserlautern and Hanau March 16 to take a management class. Their instructor was in Vilseck. Only the Schinnen student left home to attend the class. Everybody else stayed right where they were.

The miracle of computers and video teleconferencing made that possible. The Benelux students gathered at the distance learning facility on Chièvres Air Base. Utilizing computers along with a two-way video link, each of the Benelux students was able to interact with the instructor and their fellow students in Germany.

According to Chièvres distance learning facility manager John Teska, this is the face of the new Army.

Teska

"By utilizing this new equipment and the new technology, there's no need for a student to leave their home base to receive the education that will influence their careers," Teska said.

Teska explained that by using video teleconferencing the student can ask a question in a real-time environment and the instructor can respond. "In doing that, not only do you have a much more interactive learning environment, but the students at the other sites have the benefit of hearing the questions that are being asked in other locations," he said.

"Someone at Kaiserlautern might actually benefit from a question being asked at Chièvres," Teska said. "There are 16 computers here and at each table there's a microphone. When the student touches the button on the microphone to speak, the camera automatically centers on him."

Distance learning has an added advantage when it comes to the bottom line. "As you can see with the people from SHAPE and Chièvres, there's no TDY cost," Teska said. "They don't have to stay at a hotel and their unit doesn't have to pay them per diem. This greatly reduces the operational cost for the units."

So what's it like to have a video monitor for a teacher?

"While you don't have the instructors right in the classroom, that's offset by having so many different students that you can interact with," said Schinnen student Eugene Gainey.

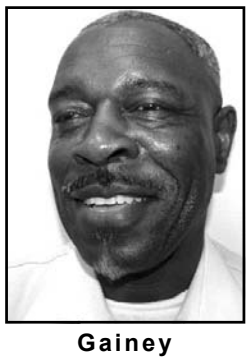
Gainey liked the give and take of the system. "The advantage is hearing the different opinions from different areas," he said. "To interact with students from other posts has been very productive for me. I had a great learning process. We have a very good instructor with good feedback from students all over Germany."

Being separated from your students by hundreds of miles and lots of coaxial cable can be a different experience for the instructor too. Scott Rosenke of Rosenke and Associates taught the class from Vilseck on March 16. Rosenke has been contracted to the Civilian Personnel Operations Center around 13 years but has only been teaching distance training facility classes for about two years.

"There sure has been an evolution for myself," Rosenke said. "It was very anxiety-producing for me when we first started doing DTF a couple of years ago. The things that you do in classrooms, you can't do in DTF because you're not with the student. If someone is in the classroom with you and they scrunch up their face and they act like they don't understand, you'll catch that. In DTF you don't have that option. You can see them but you can't see enough of the interaction. So it's a little more difficult to get rapport going."

Rosenke has had to change his classroom delivery to fit the situation. He now places a little more emphasis on facts so the student has to do more processing of the information themselves.

"It actually asks more maturity from the student than it does the instructor," Rosenke explained. "The big transition is helping the student understand that they're responsible for their learning now. If they don't ask questions, they may not get it."



Gainey

Rosenke thinks that distance learning is the wave of the future, and likes teaching that way. "We can get to a lot of diverse communities that we weren't getting to before with limited budgets," he said. "It's a good way to get an introduction so you may have better questions when you do get into some other training formats. I think it's a great resource. I'm really enjoying it now that I've been doing it a couple of years."

The distance learning facility is in building 104 on Chièvres Air Base. Computers are available that have Internet access along with the standard Microsoft office programs. Soldiers or civilians can walk in during office hours and use the computers as a resource to take online courses or simply to go to their AKO account and check their email. The facility can also be used as a presentation room.

To learn what classes are available, contact the unit S-3 office or call John Teska at DSN 361-6155.

Counselors sent to help in 104th ASG

HEIDELBERG – Twenty-two additional counselors arrived for work in the 104th Area Support Group and its base support battalions last month to provide more support to the families and communities of Soldiers on extended deployments.

HQs IMA-E Army Community Services Chief Ricky Gibbons explained that a team of four licensed social workers and psychologists, specializing in care for children and family dynamics, was sent to each of the 104th's BSBs in Wiesbaden, Hanau, Baumholder, Giessen and Friedberg with two counselors remaining at the ASG headquarters.

They will work under the auspice of the local ACS Officer and may be placed in ACS, CYS, family life chaplain offices, Army substance abuse program offices or with DoDDS," Gibbons noted. "They will conduct training and group sessions with family readiness groups and with rear detachment personnel, as needed."

The counselors will cover such areas as stress and anger management, crisis intervention, depression, and more. They will also offer support to the care givers in the community, for instance, the staff who have been working with families and children in the various community agencies.

"This support to staff who have been providing the support already is a critical piece to this, since many of the staff members are family members themselves and have carried a double load, dealing with the deployment on a personal level, while (at the same time) assisting other community members in coping," Gibbons said.

The counselors will help educate individuals on healthy ways to handle difficult situations and prevent problems. The counselors will be in close contact with local medical treatment facilities, so that individuals needing therapy or treatment can be properly referred.

Memorial service held

SCHINNEN, Netherlands – A memorial service was held at AFNorth Chapel June 10 for a member of the 254th Base Support Battalion local work force.

Pim Smeets, 44, died of cancer at home June 5 at 11:30 a.m. At the time of death Pim was surrounded by his wife, family and close friends. Pim worked for The Netherlands Law Center since December 1986 as the Dutch legal advisor. Pim was respected and highly regarded by both the U.S. and Dutch communities.

Maj. Brad Sutera, officer in charge of the Netherlands Law Center, said "Pim was one of those people you can't say enough about. His professionalism and work ethics were impeccable and he had the added value of truly caring for people – and it showed. Over the years thousands of U.S. service members, civilians and family members in the Tri-border community have benefited from Pim's sound advice and expertise. He will be very much missed as a colleague and friend."

He is survived by his wife, Mari, daughter Manuela, brother Sjef and sister Tonnie.

Pim Smeets

D-Day: June 6, 1944

Story and photos by Cis Spook

Colleville-sur-Mer , Normandy - At 6:30 a.m. on June 6, 1944, the first GIs landed a couple of meters off shore in the icy waters at Omaha Beach in Normandy, France. Some would not even reach the shoreline; others would die as they set foot on the beach. With the enemy facing them, the fighting was intense and the beach would soon be referred to as "Bloody Omaha."

On the 60th anniversary of this terrible conflict, you might stand at the very same time of day on the now peaceful beaches, reflecting on those young Soldiers who gave their lives, and on all those who by chance, were able to continue and start the huge operation to liberate Europe.

For some 3,000 U.S. Soldiers based in Germany who arrived in Nor-mandy late last month, June 6 would be the day they wanted their mission to be perfect. The week prior to the 60th anniversary of D-Day, these Soldiers have been rehearsing at Utah beach, la Pointe du Hoc, Ste. Mère Eglise and at the American Cemetery in Normandy in preparation of ceremonies honoring those who fought for the liberation of Europe.

Spook

"We want these ceremonies to be perfect. We owe it to those veterans who will be attending as well as to all of them," says a Soldier, pointing to the graves of the 9,387 fallen at the U.S. cemetery.

"I'll never be able to know how rough it must have been. I don't know whether I would have had the guts to do what they did," another Soldier added.

A couple of days prior to the events on June 6, many veterans were visiting the cemetery. Among them was a veteran in his early 80s in a wheelchair pushed by his daughter. He was approached and was asked whether he would mind answering some questions for Belgian television.

"Not at all, I remember Belgium as I was in the Battle of the Bulge too," the veteran explained. "I landed here at noon on the sixth of June. I don't know how I made it. Call it luck or providence… I saw so many who were killed on this beach. All my brothers are lying here and that's the reason for my presence today."

He paused and he surely saw the horror of Bloody Omaha again.

"Today is my first day back in Normandy and the very first thing I had to do was visit my brothers. I feel so fortunate being here for so many couldn't make it to where I made it, that is up to Malmedy in the Battle of the Bulge, where I stepped on a mine and was disabled," he remembers. Some moments don't need many words to be shared. They are very special, emotional and intense. His first time back to France dates from some ten years ago. Although he wanted to visit the American Cemetery in Normandy, he was unable to do so as emotions were too intense. Today, it was the first thing he wanted to do. "Let me go and visit the rest of my brothers," he concluded.

All the way along the beaches of Normandy, from Sword through Juno, Gold, Omaha and Utah, veterans were reflecting on the past.

I remember meeting this young girl offering a glass to the Soldiers who came by. As the glass was barely filled, I asked her to pour some more. So she did and handed me the glass. I drank it all at once when I realized it was not water but something much stronger. That was to be my first experience with Calvados, a potent liquor of the area," he recalled. This other veteran who was shaking hands with a young female cadet just couldn't do without saying, "We surely didn't have any good looking female Soldiers at that time."

Today, the beaches of Normandy are peaceful. Children build sand castles, play or walk barefoot in the water. One can hear their laughter and the seagulls.

Thank you, dear Veterans.

Cis Spook is a host nation employee in the public affairs office of the 80th Area Support Group.

PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

The commencement ceremony for SHAPE American High School's Class of 2004 was June 10 at Saint Waudru's Collegiate Church in Mons, which was built 1450-1621 and still has stained glass from the 16th century. This graduating class of 72 has several members directly enlisting in the U.S. Air Force and Roger Gates has been accepted at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Fifty-eight indicated they will move on to college or university studies.

GRADUATES, from Page 1.

in volleyball and football, but the Class of 2004 also achieved good scores in the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

"When you look back with well-earned pride for what you've accomplished, I'd ask you also to keep in mind that what we're about tonight is not an end, but it's a beginning," Stein told the graduates.

He told the class to be sure to carry their present friendships with them into the future.

Joanna Lee
Valedictorian
Class of 2004
SHAPE High School

"It's much better to be looking back together saying, 'Gee, is that what we looked like when we were in high school?' than to be looking back and saying, 'I wonder what ever happened to him?'" Stein said.

Stein studied the class yearbook in preparation for his address and he said he was not only pleased to see content that showed appreciation for parental support but also a photographic acknowledgment of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"On 11 September I was sitting in the Pentagon," Stein said, "and the very last time that I addressed a group of high school seniors was standing on the lawn right outside the Pentagon. Looking at the historic remains of where that aircraft had hit."

Stein told how he had left his office in the chaos of Sept. 11 to look after children in the Pentagon's daycare center.

"(We took) some kids from the child development center that day and… later in the afternoon, put their hands into the hands of their mothers," Stein said. "I'll never forget the looks in the eyes of those mothers. You know… we all came to a point and a meaning of what that was all about. What we must do, is to be bigger than ourselves, not worry about what matters to us, but to go beyond, and to give something back. There are hosts of ways to do it. You've got 11 (graduates) in this class going into the military. Nine into the U.S. Air Force and I'm quite proud of that. That's one way to give back, to be for protection, for the freedom of your families and friends for years ahead. There are so many more ways to give back."

Sara Weber
Salutatorian
Class of 2004
SHAPE High School

The graduates were giving back within moments. Senior Jamie Killion came to the podium with an introductory tribute to the seniors' parents.

"We all owe our parents so much," Killion said. "On behalf of the graduating Class of 2004, I would like to say, thank you. Thank you for your guidance, thank you for your support, thank you for your love, thank you for the money that you give us, thank you for everything. Tonight we will present you with only a small token of our appreciation, but as our lives progress, we will thank you by showing you what type of people we will become, and how we will make a difference in this world. Moms, Dads, and everybody that guided us to where we are today, you mean the world to us and we love you more than words can say."

The students then filed into the audience and presented flowers and hugs to their parents accompanied by a piano solo of "Sunrise, Sunset." There may have been a few dry eyes in the audience at that moment, but certainly not very many.

"Cherish all of life's opportunities with gusto," valedictorian Joanna Lee told her classmates. "We may sometimes find ourselves in a difficult situation, but that is not to say that life has dealt us a bad time. In every difficult situation, there is potential value. Never shy away from a challenge but embrace it as a golden opportunity... No matter what your story is, write it. Never give up. We have to keep writing, keep walking, keep struggling and expect new challenges to the end of our own stories."

Lee will study physiology, biology and Spanish at Brigham Young University in Utah, and plans to study in Spain for a semester.

Salutatorian Sara Weber will study art history at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She wants to work as a tour guide and eventually as a conservator at museums. She would also like to work as a singer and dancer in London.

AFNorth School

By Jeannette Foster
with Sandy Aubrey

AFNorth International School graduated 42 seniors as the Class of 2004 in a ceremony June 10 at the theater in Sittard, the Netherlands.

The class included international students from The United States, Canada, Panama, Finland, Norway, Turkey, England, Czech Republic and Switzerland.

John Martins
Valedictorian
Class of 2004
AFNorth High School

Salutatorian Kirsten Dawson delivered a wonderful speech giving the graduates and the audience her own top nine list of "advice for living." Highlights included, "Humbling yourself to those around you; Being grateful for everything you have; Guys, always remember to open the door for girls; and Quit making up excuses."

Valedictorian John Martins had a wonderful speech as well. He said how lucky he was for attending this unique high school because it has exposed him to teachers, students and cultures of many other countries, something he would not have enjoyed had he simply lived in one place in the U.S.

Martins also told a story about a little girl whose father was a successful businessman. She had a carefree life swimming in the lazy African rivers of her country Angola, but she and her family had to flee the country because of the guerilla war and they lost all their possessions. They went to the U.S. on a cargo plane with only the clothes on their back, and arrived as poor immigrants in Boston. She was thrown into the reality of cooking and cleaning, working part time, and interpreting English for her parents as they struggled to make a new life in America. After graduating from high school, she kept updating her education while simultaneously raising two children with her husband. She graduated from college at the top of her class.

Kirsten Dawson
Salutatorian
Class of 2004
AFNorth High School

Martins finished by saying that he offered the story in hope of kindling inspiration and optimism in the graduates' hearts and to let them know that despite incredible challenges, the rewards for hard work, education and a positive attitude far outweigh the temporary relief brought by procrastination, or giving up altogether. By the way, Martins said, this little girl became his mother.

See GRADUATES, Page 7.

Scholarships awarded to SHAPE students

Faculty, students and friends of SHAPE American High School assembled at the nearby cinema June 8 to honor the Class of 2004. Numerous honors and scholarships where awarded to the Spartans top seniors and 14 of them were inducted into the National Honor Society.

The SHAPE Scholarship Committee handed out Merit Awards totaling $38,600 in scholarships to 29 seniors.

The honorees were:

SHAPE Officer's Association Award, $250, Hanna Koch. SACEUR's Award for Outstanding Service to School and Community, Evan Fillman. SHAPE High School Athletes of the Year: Ryan Rice, Halley Dillon.

$1500 DECA (Commissary) Scholarship, Sara Weber; $1000 National Honor Society Scholarship, Joanna Lee; $1000 Phi Delta Kappa Education Fraternity Scholarship: Michael Kelleher; $1000 ECAPTS (PTSA) Scholarships - Hanna Koch, Michael Kelleher; $1000 YS Youth of the Year and Presidential Freedom Scholarship, Michael Kelleher; $1000 Presidential Freedom Scholarship 2003, Evan Fillman; $1000 Presidential Freedom Scholarship 2004, Grant Essad.

$500 SHAPE Athletic Official's Association Award for Academics with Athletic Excellence - Alice Massutti, David Forte.

U.S. Air Force awards: Academy appointment, Roger Lee Gates III; ROTC Scholarship, Evan Fillman; Sergeant's Association Award, $100, Grant Essad.

SHAPE Scholarship Committee Merit Awards: $500 Community Service Award, Joanna Lee; $500 Leadership Award, Evan Fillman; $500 Honorary Award for Academy Appointees, Roger Lee Gates III; $500 Merit Awards - Luke Murphy, Wayne Stark, Francisco Labandeira; $750 Merit Awards - Cristina Garcia De La Cruz, Chris Brumett, Kate Matthews, John Reynolds, Susanne Shin, Chris Sympson, Grant Essad; $850 Merit Award, Jaimie Killion; $1,000 Merit Awards - Andreas Hacker, Joshua Padgett; $1,250 Merit Awards - Lindsay Weber, Gonzalo Alejandre, Teresa Fernandez Chalud, Alexandra Meyer; $1,500 Merit Awards - David Forte, Ramona Moraska, Dominique Morneau; $1,750 Merit Awards - Hanna Koch, Stephanie Roberto; $2,000 Merit Awards - Halley Dillon, Nicholas Swanda; $2,500 Merit Awards - Evan Fillman, Michael Kelleher, Sara Weber; $3,000 Merit Award, Joanna Lee.

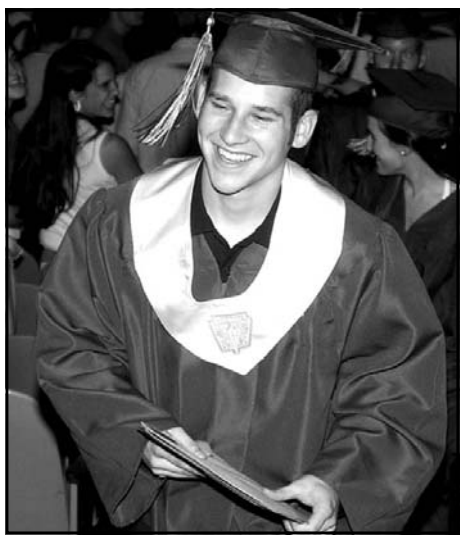


PHOTO: F. Neil Neeley

Evan Fillman collects several scholarship awards June 8 at SHAPE Cinema.

Brussels Community Calendar

ACS (02/717-9783) Metro Madness class June 25, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Toddler Play Group every Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.-noon, CYS multi-purpose room; prenatal classes available on request; complimentary 2004 Flea Market Guide books now available; For instructions regarding Belgian tax forms, contact ACS Financial Readiness Manager, 02/717-9698; Newcomers briefing featuring key agency overview, July 27, 8:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m., NSA Bldg 3, command conference room; Newcomers briefing featuring hospital tour and general information about Belgium, July 28, 9:25 a.m.-12 p.m., ACS NSA Building 4; Newcomers briefing featuring local food store information, July 29, 9:30-11 a.m., ACS NSA Building 4; Call ACS by July 22 to sign up.

Outdoor Recreation (02/717-9775 or 0474 683 544) Canterbury, June 19, 5 a.m.-10:30 p.m., price $45 adults, $39 children; Tour de France, July 4-5, price $25 adults, $15 children; Delft Factory, The Hague and Scheveningen beach, July 10, 7 a.m.-9 p.m., price $40 adults, $33 children; Paris, July 31, 5 a.m.-11 p.m., price $40 adults, $33 children.

Three Star Lounge (02/717-9822 or 9819) FRG Family Pasta Night June 18, 7 p.m., bring a dish to share; Cook Your Own Steak Night July 31, 7 p.m., $10 for steak and two sides, call 02 717-9639 or 9732 for reservation by July 19; Movie Night with free popcorn every Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Multi-Craft Center (02/717-9629) Closed June 15-19 and June 22; cross-stitching Wednesday-Thursday, 6 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.; jewelry making Wednesdays at 6 p.m.; adult basic ceramics Wednesday-Thursday, 2 p.m.; basic ceramics for adults and children Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.; basket weaving Wednesday-Thursday, 6 p.m.; wood shop power tools classes Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.; framing classes Thursdays, 2 and 6 p.m.; auto craft classes Wednesday and Thursday, 7 p.m. Call for info or to sign up.

Child and Youth Services (02/717-9665) Summer Camp through Aug. 13, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Library (02/717-9705) Story Time for 3-6 year olds every Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.; summer reading program for 6-12 year-olds, June 20-Aug 7; new library hours are Monday closed, Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday 2-7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday 12-5 p.m.

Consignment Shop (02/717-9724) Open Wednesdays and Fridays only, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., through Aug. 31.

For more information about events happening in the Brussels community, visit www.brussels.army.mil.

SHAPE and Chièvres Community Calendar

Education Center news - Central Texas College seeks a part-time permanent field representative for the SHAPE/Chièvres/NSA Brussels communities. If you are interested in working flexible hours, contact Laura Gilliam, DSN 423-7447, civilian 065 44-7447, or laura.gilliam@benelux.army.mil; The University of Oklahoma 's fall registration is underway. OU offers classes leading to a Master of Human Relations degree which can be completed in 18 months or less. Students can view the upcoming schedule at http://www.goou.ou.edu , or stopping by the education center, Building 212, Room 109, or by calling DSN 423-3654 or commercial 065 44-3654. Students can also visit the OU SHAPE webpage at http://www.goou.ou.edu/europe/shape.htm .

SHAPE Arts and Crafts Center gears up for the summer months. With school out, the kids need something to do. Session one is June 21-July 9, session two is July 12-30 and session three is Aug. 2-30. Arts and Crafts is located on SHAPE, Building 209, and is open Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and Fridays 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. To sign up for summer classes, stop by the Arts and Crafts Center or call DSN 423-4680.

Summer reading program at Chièvres Air Base Library is June 17-July 31 and is open to children of all ages. Sign up at DSN 361-5767.

BOSS News - Better Opportunities for Single Service Members is going to Six Flags in Holland July 17. Cost for this one-day trip is Euro 10 and Euro 22 for the day pass. Season passes can be purchased from BOSS for Euro 50. Info: IS1 James Brown DSN 366-6272. Win a free trip to Spain. Tickets sell for $10 and drawing is at Chièvres PX Aug. 5, 5 p.m. For tickets sales contact your unit BOSS representative or buy them at the PX on the day of the drawing. Join BOSS – Meetings are every first and third Thursday of the month at 1.30 p.m. at SHAPE Community Activity Center. Info: contact your BOSS represenatative today.

Salsa lessons are every Monday, 6.30-8.30 p.m. at the SHAPE IC Club. Sign up with Cesar and Salina.

Job assistance classes are now available at Army Community Service. Learn about your opportunities or how to create your Resume and use Resumix. For dates and times contact ACS at DSN 423-4904.

Prime Time Lounge on Daumerie Caserne has Monte Carlo Night June 26, 8:30 p.m.

The Youth Center on SHAPE offers a summer baseball program June 22-July 29 open to boys and girls ages 5-15 years. Uniforms will be provided by Youth Sports and gloves can be signed out at the office. Info: Chantal Brown, DSN 423-5856.

SHAPE Bowling Center has the Pizza Bowl Shootout July 8-11. Watch professional bowlers from Belgium, Netherlands and Germany compete and learn some new moves. Info: Paul Taylor, DSN 423-5697.

254th BSB Local Calendar

Tighten up at aerobathon - The 254th Base Support Bn. MWR sponsors an aerobathon June 19, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in Schinnen Sports Center. There will drawings for prizes. Shape up and win a massage at Thermo 2000, dinner at Lucas Bar-B-Q, bowling, T-shirts, water bottles and more.

The Schinnen Thrift Shop has moved to Building 24, the former Self Help Store behind the Directorate of Public Works. Hours are the same.

BSB break postponed - The 254th BSB Employee Friendship Day has been postponed to a later date. Details will be announced as soon as possible.

Chapel luncheon set - The next AFNorth Chapel Power Luncheon is July 12, noon, in the ACS conference room.

Local night spot is off-limits - U.S. authorities have put the Koempel Club (K-Club) on Rumpenerstraat in Brunssum temporarily off-limits to all U.S. personnel in the Tri-border. Info: Tom Leugers, 31 46 443-7351.

Teen Center opens - The grand opening of Schinnen Teen Center is June 21, 10 a.m. The Teen Center is in the Sports Center and all registered Youth Services members in grades 9-12 are welcome. Info: 045 526-3595.

Check out CLEP testing - Treebeek Education Center has College Level Examination Program material available, stop by for details or call DSN 364-6060.

Club aids orphans in Afghanistan - *Project Afghanistan,* The American Spouses Club collects items for the International Orphan Car in Kabul. Drop off donations at the U.S. Thrift Shop at Schinnen or the U.K. Thrift Shop at AFNorth. *Food International Orphan Care*, Open to all students at AFNorth and Geilenkirchen. Kids should draw a picture of themselves with their favorite food. Pictures and a can/box of the favorite food should be taken to the Thrift Shop at Schinnen. Info: 046 443-7436.

Job available at Schinnen - *Directorate of Community Activities has part time positions for Child and Youth Program assistants* in the Child Development Center, School Age Services and Youth Services. Info: Benelux CPAC, 32 6827-5467 or visit Benelux.cpac@cpoceur. army.mil; *254th BSB Morale, Welfare and Recreation seeks a Family Advocacy Program educator, an Exceptional Family Member Program coordinator, Army Family Team Building coordinator and an Army Family Action Plan coordinator.* Info: DSN 360-7452; Schinnen *Commissary delicatessen section has a job vacancy* for American applicants. Info: stop by the commissary.

Check out the social scene - Join friends and colleagues at the Memories Lane social hour Fridays at 4 p.m.

News from the Bowling Center - Cosmic bowling Fridays, 6 p.m.; No Tap Tournaments Saturdays, 6 p.m., men 9 pins, women 8 pins, $15 entry fee.

Support group meets - The New Parent Support Program Breastfeeding Support Group meets May 26, 10 - 11 a.m., ACS Conference Room, Building 39, Schinnen.

Schinnen Playgroup for Toddlers meets every Thursday, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at the Schinnen Sports Center.

Free child screening offered - Developmental screening for babies through 3 years of age. All American-sponsored families are eligible. Info: Mary Jo Rooney, 045 563-6126.

Adult classes set - Unless otherwise indicated, classes are held in ACS Building 39 at Schinnen, 046-443-7500: Breastfeeding Support Group meets Jun 23, 10 a.m.; Labor and delivery tour of the Heerlen Hospital June 14, noon-3:30 p.m.; New Parent Education infant massage class June 15, 10 a.m.; Employment Readiness Program has two workshops every Tuesday: "Finding Employment," 10 a.m.-noon, and "Hands on Resumix", 2-4 p.m.

News from Geilenkirchen

Unless otherwise indicated the following events and activities are sponsored by the Geilenkirchen American Family Support Center (FSC) and interested parties can call 49 2451 63-3791 to sign up or to get more information: GK U.S. Clinic has two cardiopulmonary resuscitation classes on the first and third Friday each month. Classes on the first Friday are for health care providers and the other is offered for the general population. Spouses may attend but will not be issued certification cards. Info: 49 2451 99-3343. All classes are in the clinic training room.

GRADUATES, from Page 5.

He said both his parents worked extremely hard to raise him and his sister in comfortable surroundings, unlike their own childhood. He ended by saying that he will follow their example when starting his journey, building his life and fulfilling his dreams.

Parents wrote letters for their graduating seniors and these were read by some of the students at the ceremony. Some wonderful messages advised the seniors to focus or to follow their hearts. One Norwegian parent noted that when their son found out the family was moving to AFNorth, he said, "You will steal a year out of my life." The son loved life at AFNorth where he played American football and made wonderful friends. At the end of the letter the parents asked him, "Do you still think that we stole a year of your life or gave you an extra year to be cherished?"

Lt. Col. Deborah Broughton, commander of the 254th Base Support Bn., was the guest speaker. She reminded the graduates not to have amnesia. They should remember all the people who helped them get this far.

Parents were extremely impressed with the commencement ceremony. The class gave out tissues at the entrance. One parent commented, "I am glad for the tissues. I started to use it after the second letter."

Students were really appreciative. One junior, said this was beautiful, but, "We'll still make it better next year."

Valedictorian John Martins will attend Georgia Tech where he will major in bio-medical engineering. He chose his career three years ago after researching the field and talking to a family friend who is a nuclear physician.

Salutatorian Kirsten Dawson will attend the United States Military Academy. She loves languages and plans to major in Arabic. After West Point she hopes to attend medical school.

Jeannette Foster was class sponsor.

PHOTO: Jack Higbee

Parents, teachers, and other well-wishers greet members of the AFNorth International School Class of 2004 in the lobby of the theater in Sittard, the Netherlands following the graduation ceremony June 10.

Valedictorian made mark as volunteer

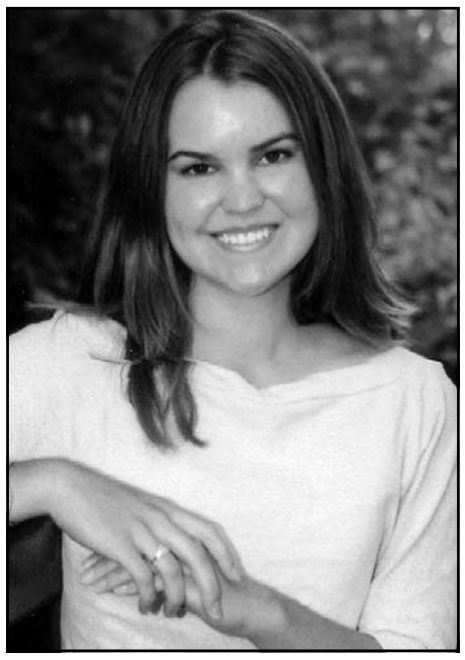
By Jackie Cash

Youth, "the period between childhood and maturity; the early period of existence, growth, or development."

While that definition may be widely accepted by the masses, it does great injustice to many so labeled. I base my opinion on the actions and character of a "youth" named Joanna Lee. Joanna fits the definition in part as she has just been graduated from SHAPE American High School and as such falls squarely in the midst of her growth and development. But that definition barely skirts Joanna's maturity and wisdom.

Joanna is the Youth Chair at the local SHAPE American Red Cross. She began working with the Red Cross through the Summer Hire program in 2002 and was charged with basic receptionist duties. In very short order Joanna proved her dependability and integrity, and her duties were expanded. She returned to the office the following year at which time the station management approached her with the idea of becoming Youth Chair. Joanna did not accept the position immediately, choosing rather to take time to evaluate her already busy schedule of school, extracurricular, and church activities. Joanna believes in commitment, and when she says "yes," she means it.

Joanna's acceptance was the Red Cross's good fortune. She quickly set about the task of finding ways to recruit and involve the youth in worthwhile community activities. The first big opportunity came from 80th Area Support Group Dept. of Public Works director, Lt. Col. George Shepard. The youth were enlisted to renovate the holiday decorations used on Chièvres Air Base. Under the talented guidance of Myrna Kingston, a local artist and volunteer, the youth transformed the decorations from pieces of painted wood to joyous figures ready to welcome the community to the annual tree-lighting ceremony.



Joanna Lee

The next project found the youth selling ice-cream sundaes and floats as a fund-raiser at the first ever summer concert under the stars by the SHAPE Jazz Messengers. But Joanna wanted a big project, and with help from adult supervisor, Seba Latham, the youth embarked on "Operation Anaconda Neighborhood," a project that collected school supplies and sports items to be sent to Iraqi school children. The youth advertised, promoted, and did all the leg work. Their efforts resulted in 27 boxes being packed and shipped to Iraq.

Joanna has lain the preliminary groundwork for a Red Cross program called "Safe On My Own," that she hopes to pilot soon. The program's target audience is third graders and provides safety information for those times they are alone at home.

Joanna was active in many school-related activities. Among these were the jazz band, chorus, cross country, soccer and swimming teams. Joanna serves as president of her church youth group and has also held numerous class leadership positions. She maintained a GPA above 4.0, is a member of the National Honor Society, and has participated in the Model United Nations and DODDS Creative Connections. She is valedictorian of her graduating class. Joanna will attend Brigham Young University where she plans to major in biology and minor in Spanish.

Because of Joanna's efforts on behalf of the American Red Cross at SHAPE, she was awarded the George M. Elsey Award for Outstanding Involvement of Youth at this year's Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. Joanna hopes to return to the Red Cross office for her third year with the summer hire program, and we look forward to her contagious zeal and "can do" attitude.

Jackie Cash is field office assistant at American Red Cross, SHAPE.

Benelux Meteor Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date
June 28	July 9	July 26	Aug. 6	Aug. 30	Sept. 10	Sept. 27	Oct. 8
July 12	July 23	Aug. 9	Aug. 20	Sept. 13	Sept. 24	Oct. 8	Oct.22

About Us

Benelux Meteor

The *Benelux Meteor* is the authorized unofficial Army newspaper published under AR 360-1 for 80th Area Support Group personnel. Editorial content is provided by the 80th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office and the 254th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office. Opinions expressed are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 80th Area Support Group. The *Meteor* is published twice per month. Circulation is 3,000. Our mailing address is Benelux Meteor, HQ 80th ASG, Unit 21419, Public Affairs Office, APO AE 09708. Telephone: DSN 361-5419; fax: DSN 361-5106; civilian telephone prefix: 068-27-5419. The country code for Belgium is 0032. Email address: meteor@benelux.army.mil

Policy

- We invite and encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request., but we will not print any anonymous letters.
- We reserve the right to edit letters to make them fit the allotted space, to remove libelous material and to correct grammar. Letters should contribute to the informational interest of the issue in question.
- Articles and photographs may be submitted for consideration but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor.
- Community-related event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms initially and include a point of contact, telephone number and e-mail address.
- All submissions are subject to editing.

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- Messages from readers from profit and non-profit organizations which involve money exchange constitutes advertising.
- Neither the *Benelux Meteor* staff nor other public affairs personnel can accept advertising requests.
- The appearance of advertising, including inserts, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services offered. Everything advertised must be available for purchase, use or patronage, without discrimination.
- Any gambling or lottery requiring payment for chance cannot be advertised as stated in 18 U.S.C. 1302.

Deadline

Copy and photographs are due by noon 10 calendar days before publication date.

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LTC Deborah P. Broughton ..... 254th Base Support Battalion
LTC Jon M. Davis Jr. ..... NATO Support Activity

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Susan Jackson ..... 254th Base Support Battalion
Rick Haverinen ..... Editor
F. Neil Neeley ..... Writer
Sandy Aubrey ..... Writer

Independence Day festivities abound

Brussels/NSA

NATO Support Activity hosts the Annual Independence Day Celebration July 3, 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m., at NSA Sterrebeek, Brussels American School. Throughout the day, the whole family will enjoy face painting, sack and three legged races, egg toss, face painting, bouncy castles, dunk tank, sumo wrestling, kiddie rides, mechanical bull riding, food and drinks and much more. For general information contact Lisa. Passalacqua@benelux. army.mil or 02 717-9639.

All the following events happen July 3.

NSA MWR 4th July Run/Walk – On-site registration opens 7 a.m., race starts 8 a.m., at Tervuren Park in Brussels. Pre-registration now open. The free 5K run/walk includes the following four categories: Men's and Women's 19 to 29; 30 to 39; 40 to 49; and 50 and over. Youth in grades 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12 are welcome to participate. All youth under 10 will get medals. Open to all U.S. military, D.A. civilians and family members. Info: Marty, 02 717-9652.

NATO Support Activity's Single Elimination Softball Tournament and Home Run Derby starts at noon, in Brussels. Free of charge. Awards include team trophy for first and second place. Games times posted July 1 at NSA Sports and Fitness Center. Open to all Military ID card holders, NATO Staff and authorized users. Players must be 16 years or more. Registration for the tournament and the home run derby is at NSA Sports and Fitness Center now until June 30.

BOSS (Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers) Independence Day celebration basketball tournament tips off at 1 p.m. at NSA-Sterrebeek, Brussels American School Gym. Three-on-three single elimination, first to 11 points wins, or top score after 12 minutes. Entry fee $25, trophies for first and runner-up, 16 teams maximum. Half court action, full court championship game, and first to 11 wins, 20-minute time limit. Reserve your team by calling 02 707-5343 or email edward.garcia@ benelux.army.mil.

The Brussels Independence Day Celebration is still looking for volunteers to help plan now and work the celebration day. This is a day of family fun. Info: Special Events, 02 717-9639, 02 717 8679 or e-mail Lisa.Passalacqua@ benelux.army.mil.

PHOTO: Dorothy Nevins

McGruff the Crime Dog displayed good rodeo style last year at the NATO Support Activity Fourth of July celebration.

PHOTO: F. Neil Neeley

Fighting fire with firepower

Saint George fires the fatal shot at the dragon during the ritual combat of Lumeçon held on Mons' Grand Place June 6. The battle is a traditional part of the Doudou festival that dates back to the Middle Ages. Saint George is initially armed with a lance, then a saber and finally a gun. He uses them in turn against the dragon. The dragon's body is made of green painted wicker and manned by 11 men dressed in white. The body is five meters long with a five meter long pole for a tail making its total length 10 meters. Supported by eight men dressed in green ivy, the tail has a mane of long black hair at its end. Spectators try to tear away strands of the hair to keep as a good luck charm.

SHAPE/Chièvres

The 80th Area Support Group invites the international community and children of all ages to join in as we celebrate American Independence Day on SHAPE, July 4, with carnival rides, games, special activities, raffles, delicious food concessions, continuous DJ or live entertainment climaxed with a spectacular fireworks extravaganza at 11 p.m.

The opening ceremony is at noon in the fest tent beside the GB parking lot. You can enjoy your favorite American foods and beverages throughout the day with continuous Karaoke and DJ music, magic shows at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., followed by two live classic rock bands; "Nineties Buddies," 7-9 p.m. and "United Arts Sox," 9-11 p.m. in the fest tent. AFN Radio will be on-site broadcasting live and operating their "Dunk a DJ" dunk tank.

Children can ride go-karts, ponies, bumper cars, jump around in the bouncing castles all day and have their picture taken with a Looney Tunes character like the Tazmanian Devil. There will be face and nail painting, temporary tattoos, information booths, and many local private organizations and military units selling food and beverages throughout the day.

For more information and if you wish to participate in the July 4th Celebration, call the 80th ASG Community Recreation Office at DSN 361-5589.

PHOTO: F. Neil Neeley

This quintet of girls got tossed and turned by a carnival ride last year at the Fourth of July celebration on SHAPE. Fireworks cap the festivities this year at 11 p.m.

254th BSB in Schinnen

The 254th Base Support Bn. is planning a spectacular two-day celebration of the Fourth of July.

The fun kicks off July 3 at 10 a.m. with a five kilometer fun run. At 1 p.m. the amusement rides start to roll and the adult and youth karaoke, food, live music, entertainment, and a bowling tournament take off. On July 4 the fun and activities also get started at 1 p.m. culminating at about 10:45 p.m. with a grand fireworks display. But that's not all that's planned for visitors, starting on July 2, there is a three-day bazaar that will run until July 4, 11 a.m.– 7 p.m. The DCA organizers promise everyone a great old fashion Fourth of July.

PHOTO: Sandy Aubrey

Jacob Lorenzen ignored the "Never eat anything bigger than your head" advice in Schinnen last year.

The event is open to U.S. and NATO ID cardholders as well as Dutch Ministry of Defense civilian employees assigned to the 254th BSB and their guests. Anyone wishing to bring a guest should contact the Public Affairs Office at 046 443-7331 or DSN 360-7331 with their guest's name and identification numbers by July 1.

There will be a shuttle service for the duration of the operation hours from the Terborgh Castle (overflow parking area) to the installation.

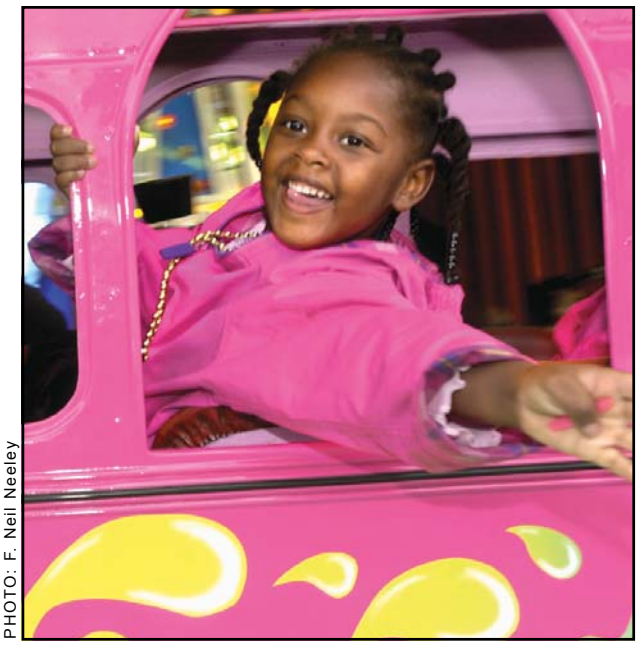

PHOTO: F. Neil Neeley