

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux news briefs

Christmas services planned

Benelux communities will hold several services in English.

SHAPE International Chapel
Centre's East Chapel:

- Dec. 11 at 2 p.m.: Christmas carol service from SHAPE International School's British Section

- Christmas Eve, Dec. 24
— 7:30 p.m.: Christmas carol service (Catholic)

- 8 p.m.: Christmas Eve Mass (Catholic); reception follows.

- Christmas Day, Dec. 25, at 10:15 a.m.: Christmas service with Eucharist (Church of England/Episcopalian)

Brunssum Chapel:

- Dec. 13 at 9:30 a.m.: children's Christmas service (Protestant)

- Dec. 15 at 5 p.m.: Advent Reconciliation service (Catholic)

- Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m.: Christmas service (Protestant)

- Christmas Day, Dec. 25, at 11:30 a.m.: Christmas Mass (Catholic)

Brussels Chapel:

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m.: Candlelight service (ecumenical) with Christmas hymns and a reading of the Nativity Story.



Santa visits Benelux communities

Peyton Thomas sits on Santa's lap, getting ready to whisper what she wants for Christmas during the USAG Benelux-Brussels Winterfest/Tree-lighting event Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Bernardo Fuller, American Forces Network Benelux)

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Festivities celebrate holidays across Benelux



(Left) Santa and one of his elves arrive at the Schinnen Holiday Celebration and Tree-lighting in a fire truck from the local Schinnen fire department Friday, Dec. 4, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Nino Antonacci) • Dillon Hargrave (right) decorates a cookie while his sister, Layna, enjoys some cookie icing during the SHAPE Holiday Experience at the SHAPE Events Centre Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Keith Houin)

(Right) Children sit on Santa's lap as they pose for one of mom's photos during the USAG Benelux-Brussels Winterfest and Tree-lighting Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015. • A little girl gleams with excitement after meeting Santa during the Brussels Winterfest and Tree-lighting Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015. (U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Bernardo Fuller)



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Leadership



IMCOM-E regional director visits Benelux HQ

U.S. Army Installation Management Command-Europe's regional director addresses the members of U.S. Army Garrison Benelux on Caserne Daumerie Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015. Michael Formica held a town-hall meeting and professional-development session where he emphasized the significance of each garrison member's role in supporting the NATO mission. Formica also discussed the importance of professional development and explained some of the programs in which civilian employees may be eligible to take part. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Clark)

AFNORTH Battalion has new enlisted leader

Story and photos by Tim Clark

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, AFNORTH Battalion, said goodbye to HHC's top enlisted Soldier and welcomed her successor and in a change-of-responsibility ceremony Dec. 4 at Chièvres Air Base.

HHC's incoming enlisted leader, 1st Sgt. Dwight Copeland, comes to AFNORTH from Headquarters, U.S. Army Europe, in Wiesbaden, Germany, where he was the enlisted aide to the commanding general of U.S. Army Europe, Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, who attended the ceremony.

In 2014, competing against more than 200 military chefs during the Annual Military Culinary Arts Competitive Training Event, Copeland won and was named the Army's top aide of the year. Copeland is a certified chef de cuisine from the American Culinary Federation.

After 25 years of faithful service to her country, outgoing 1st Sgt. Etola Nesbitt has an approved retirement date of July 1, 2016.

HHC's company commander sang Nesbitt's praises.

"She has been an exceptional

driving force within AFNORTH; a great colleague, peer and friend. We are sorry to see you go," Capt. Sean Raleigh said. "1st Sgt. Nesbitt brought us a wealth of experience, expert and tempered leadership, sound advice and mentorship, and the utmost caring for the Soldiers and families of HHC."

Raleigh went on to recognize Copeland's special skills.

"The unit will be gaining a truly great leader in 1st Sgt. Dwight Copeland. I am confident in his abilities, motivation, and determination to help me continue to lead an outstanding and successful company," Raleigh said. "All of you can feel confident that you are getting an outstanding new first sergeant."

In her outgoing remarks, Nesbitt expressed her appreciation.

"Thank you for your hard work and support. I'm grateful," she said.

In Copeland's remarks, he acknowledged coming challenges.

"The road ahead will not be easy. I'm sure we will face challenges, but we will rise to meet them," he said.



(Right) 1st Sgt. Dwight Copeland receives the noncommissioned officer's sword, from AFNORTH company commander Capt. Sean Raleigh. The passing of the sword signifies the transfer of responsibility and authority from the outgoing first sergeant to the incoming first sergeant. • (Below) Copeland talks with Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges after the ceremony.



Leadership

New NCOs inducted during ceremony

Story and photos by Tim Clark

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

In a ceremony filled with tradition, pageantry and pride, 19 Soldiers joined the professional Noncommissioned Officer Corps Dec. 3 at the Alliance Auditorium on SHAPE.

Commonly known as the backbone of the Army, the NCO corps' duties and responsibilities can be traced back to the "Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States," first used during the winter at Valley Forge by George Washington's troops. The tradition of commemorating the passing of a Soldier to a noncommissioned officer can be traced back to the Prussian army of Frederick the Great in 1775.

After a reading of the poem "Boots of the NCO," red, white and blue candles were lit signifying the courage, commitment and valor of the NCO. Command Sgt. Maj. Travis Childers of AFNORTH Battalion spoke about the history of the NCO creed.

"Making the transition from a junior Soldier to a noncommissioned officer is perhaps the most momentous change that you will experience in your military career," said guest speaker Command Sgt. Maj. Oscar Campos, the senior enlisted adviser of the 39th Signal Battalion.

Campos shared some stories about some of the great NCOs who inspired him.

"Being a noncommissioned officer is not about you as an individual; it's about your team, squad or element that you are responsible for leading, not managing, leading," Campos said.

The NCOs to be inducted rose as a group and, single file, passed under an arch of sabers as they moved toward the stage. One by one, the 19 Soldiers moved under the NCO arch decorated with the insignia of the enlisted ranks. Each Soldier stated his name, then Campos asked, "Who will sponsor this inductee?"

Rising from the audience, each sponsor

answered with pride. The Soldier crossed the stage to join the formation of new NCOs. They were sworn in, accepting their new duties and responsibilities.

All the NCOs in the room were asked to stand. Together with the new members of their corps, they recited the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer in unison. It was a proud moment for each of them and for the U.S. Army.



(Top) Noncommissioned officer candidates walk under the arch of sabers at the ceremony in the Alliance Auditorium on SHAPE Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015. • The 19 newly inducted NCOs take the Oath of the U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer.

Lithuania defeats Latvia for IBT title



Latvia found the path to the basket rough going in the title game of the 2015 SHAPE International Basketball Tournament. Lithuania defeated Latvia 75-45 to win the championship game Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015. (U.S. Army photos by Tim Clark)



Gary Oliver cheers on Team USA Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015.

Final Standings

- 1st Lithuania
- 2nd Latvia
- 3rd USA
- 4th Italy
- 5th Belgium
- 6th United Kingdom
- 7th the Netherlands
- 8th SHAPE



The SHAPE International team had a tough tournament, losing all of its games.



Members of the Italian team celebrate with their fans after defeating Team USA Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015. The USA came back to defeat Italy Saturday to take third place in the tournament.

SHAPE/Chîvres Holiday Community Calendar

	PX	Commissary	ACS	AFCU	Auto Skills	Benelux Finance Disb.	CDC, SAC & Parent Central	Youth Center	Fitness Center	Health Facility
Mon Dec. 21	regular schedule	regular schedule	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	regular schedule	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon, all services 1 - 5 p.m. - Acute Care only
Tue Dec. 22	regular schedule	regular schedule	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	regular schedule	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon, all services 1 - 5 p.m. - Acute Care only
Wed Dec. 23	regular schedule	regular schedule	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	regular schedule	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon, all services 1 - 5 p.m. - Acute Care only
Thu Dec. 24	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 - 10 a.m. - Acute Care only Closed in the afternoon
Fri Dec. 25	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Dec. 26	regular schedule	regular schedule	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 10 a.m. - Acute Care only (MOD)
Sun Dec. 27	regular schedule	regular schedule	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 10 a.m. - Acute Care only (MOD)
Mon Dec. 28	regular schedule	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	regular schedule	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon, all services except PT, OPT Closed in the afternoon
Tue Dec. 29	regular schedule	regular schedule	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	regular schedule	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon, all services except PT, OPT Closed in the afternoon
Wed Dec. 30	regular schedule	regular schedule	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	regular schedule	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon, all services except PT, OPT Closed in the afternoon
Thu Dec. 31	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	regular schedule	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 10 a.m. - Acute Care only Closed in the afternoon
Fri Jan. 1	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Jan. 2	regular schedule	regular schedule	Closed	regular schedule	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 10 a.m. - Acute Care only (MOD)
Sun Jan. 3	regular schedule	regular schedule	Closed	regular schedule	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 10 a.m. - Acute Care only (MOD)

	Outdoor Recreation	Kennel	Library	Shuttle	Parcel Pick up	Postal Finance	LRC Official Travel	LRC ClF	Motor Pool	LRC Personal Property office	LRC Drivers Training and Testing
Mon Dec. 21	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2-4:30 p.m.	Closed	normal service	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tue Dec. 22	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2-4:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	normal service	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wed Dec. 23	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2-4:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	normal service	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thu Dec. 24	Closed	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri Dec. 25	Closed	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Dec. 26	Closed	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun Dec. 27	Closed	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon Dec. 28	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2-4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Tue Dec. 29	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2-4:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wed Dec. 30	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2-4:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Thu Dec. 31	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - noon	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri Jan. 1	Closed	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Jan. 2	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun Jan. 3	Closed	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

SHAPE/Chîvres Emergency numbers

Any emergency - Dial 112

Chîvres MP station, DSN 361-5301 or civilian 068-27-5301
SHAPE Police Desk, DSN 423-3333/4 or civilian 065-44-3333/4

Brussels Holiday Community Calendar

	Shoppette	ACS	AFCU	Auto Skills	CDC. at Bldg. 3	Parent Central	Health Clinic	Fitness Center	3 Star & Outdoor Recreation
Mon Dec. 21	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Lab and X-ray, from 8 a.m. - noon)	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed
Tue Dec. 22	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Lab and X-ray, from 8 a.m. - noon)	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed
Wed Dec. 23	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Lab and X-ray, from 8 a.m. - noon)	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed
Thu Dec. 24	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	1 p.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed
Fri Dec. 25	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Dec. 26	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed
Sun Dec. 27	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed
Mon Dec. 28	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Lab and X-ray, from 8 a.m. - noon)	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed
Tue Dec. 29	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed	7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Lab and X-ray, from 8 a.m. - noon)	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed
Wed Dec. 30	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Lab and X-ray, from 8 a.m. - noon)	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed
Thu Dec. 31	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	1 p.m. - 7 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed
Fri Jan. 1	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Jan. 2	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed
Sun Jan. 3	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed

	Housing	Library	LRC Official Travel	Personal Mail Pick up	Postal Finance	LRC ITO/Drivers Training and Testing/Motor Pool	LRC Personal Property Processing	Brussels Finance
Mon Dec. 21	Closed	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8:15 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tue Dec. 22	Closed	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8:15 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wed Dec. 23	Closed	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8:15 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thu Dec. 24	Closed	Closed	8 a.m. - noon	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri Dec. 25	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Dec. 26	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun Dec. 27	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon Dec. 28	Closed	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tue Dec. 29	Closed	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wed Dec. 30	Closed	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thu Dec. 31	Closed	Closed	8 a.m. - noon	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri Jan. 1	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Jan. 2	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun Jan. 3	Closed	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

Emergency numbers in Brussels

Brussels MP station, DSN 368-9769 or civilian 02-717-9769

Any emergency - Dial 112

Schinnen Holiday Community Calendar

	Main /Expr./ Gas St.	Commissary	ACS	AFCU	Bowling Center	Clinic - GK	Dental Clinic GK	Community Bank	Pin Point	CDC/SAC	Fitness Center	Youth Center	Brunssum Finance
Mon Dec. 21	Closed	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tue Dec. 22	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wed Dec. 23	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thu Dec. 24	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Fri Dec. 25	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Dec. 26	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Sun Dec. 27	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Mon Dec. 28	Closed	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tue Dec. 29	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wed Dec. 30	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thu Dec. 31	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Fri Jan. 1	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Jan. 2	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (1st Sat/month)	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	Closed	Closed	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Sun Jan. 3	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed

	Library JFC Brunssum	IACS	Legal Center	Parcel Pick-up JFC Brunssum	Parcel Pick-up Schinnen	Postal Finance JFC Brunssum	Postal Finance Schinnen	Public Affairs	LRC Official Travel	LRC Personal Property/Drivers Testing	LRC CIF/TMP	Outdoor Recreation
Mon Dec. 21			9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed
Tue Dec. 22			9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed Dec. 23	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed *	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thu Dec. 24	Closed	Closed *	Closed	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Fri Dec. 25	Closed	Closed *	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed **	Closed
Sat Dec. 26	Closed	Closed *	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed **	Closed
Sun Dec. 27	Closed	Closed *	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed **	Closed
Mon Dec. 28	Closed	Closed *	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed **	Closed
Tue Dec. 29	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed *	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed **	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed Dec. 30	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed *	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed **	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thu Dec. 31	Closed	Closed *	Closed	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - noon	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed **	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Fri Jan. 1	Closed	Closed *	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed **	Closed
Sat Jan. 2	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed **	Closed
Sun Jan. 3	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed **	Closed

NOTES: *MP Desk will handle access issues during closure dates **CIF emergencies: DSN 360-7473 - TMP emergencies: DSN 360-7655

Emergency Numbers in the Netherlands

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

Any emergency - Dial 112

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

Register now

- **ACS trip to Antwerp Christmas market** - Join the group from Brussels Army Community Service to explore the Antwerp Christmas market **Dec. 16**. To register, call DSN 368-9729 or civilian 02-7179729.

Register now

- **CYSS Youth Sports Winter season programs** - Open enrollment is going on now for several sports offered by Child, Youth and School services during the January-February season. Volunteer coaches receive free and reduced fees for their children to participate. Call DSN 368-9539/9651 or civilian 02-7179539/9651.
Basketball - Youth ages 3 to 15 may be signed up for this sports program. Cost: \$20 for ages 3 to 5; \$40 for ages 6 to 15.
Cheerleading - Youths ages 6 to 12 may be signed up for this sports program. Cost: \$20 for ages 6 to 7 and \$40 for ages 8 to 12.

Volunteer now

- **Coaches needed** - Volunteers receive free and reduced fees for their children to participate. If you are interested, call DSN 368-9539 or civilian 02-7179539.

Dec. 10

- **BOSS Movie Night** - Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hosts "War Room" (PG) from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the BOSS Movie Area on the third floor of Building 1. Movie is free, but space is limited so make your reservation soon at reservations3star@yahoo.com. For details, call DSN 368-9819 or civilian 02-7179819

Dec. 11

- **3 Star Recreation Night** - Join the USAG Benelux-Brussels community Fridays from 5:30 to 11 p.m. Recreation Night features games, cards, music and movies. Snacks and beverages available for purchase: crispy chicken tenders, daily homemade soup and potato wedges. For details, call DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-7179822.
- **BOSS Movie Night** - Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hosts "Fantastic Four" (PG-13) from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the BOSS Movie Area on the third floor of Building 1. Movie is free, but space is limited so make your reservation soon at reservations3star@yahoo.com. For details, call DSN 368-9819 or civilian 02-7179819.

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

Dec. 11 to 13

- **A Christmas Carol** - The Alliance Players present Charles Dickens' timeless classic, "A Christmas Carol," at JFC Alliance Theater Dec. 11 and 12 at 7 p.m. and a matinee performance Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. Tickets available at the door: adults, \$8; children under 12, \$5.

Dec. 16

- **New Parent Support Network** - Meet other parents, discuss making the transition to parenthood and bond with your baby through sharing and music at the Child Development Center on Brunssum in Building H-602's Room Y006 from 10 to 11 a.m. This event is suggested for parents with children, ages newborn to 12 months. For more information, call DSN 360-7500 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437500.
- **Pre-departure Briefing** - Those who are moving to a new duty station, separating or retiring can learn valuable information to help in their transition at Schinnen Army Community Service from 10 to 11:30 a.m. To register, call DSN 360-7512/7500 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437512/7500.
- **Sponsor Training** - Find out about the responsibilities of being a good sponsor and get local information that will make your job stress-free at Schinnen Army Community Service from 2 to 3:30 p.m. To register, call DSN 360-7512/7500 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437512/7500.

Dec. 17

- **Parents Support and Education/Office hours** - Learn about pregnancy, labor and delivery, breast-feeding, newborn care or toddlers at an individual session or a group class at Schinnen Army Community Service to pick up some handouts or to view an informative DVD. Call at DSN 360-7500 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437500.

Dec. 17 and 18

- **Welcome, newcomers** - Learn what you need to know at Schinnen Army Community Service. All newcomers must attend the Host-Nation Orientation on Day 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to learn local customs, culture, language and an overview of Tri-Border services. On Day 2, meet at ACS to take the Newcomers Tour from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The group goes beyond the gate to learn and use the public transportation to visit points of interest in the community. Contact DSN 360-7218/7500 or civilian 046-4437218/7500.



Graphic by Spc. Travis Jones/AFN Benelux

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY continued

Dec. 22

- **LEGO Club** - Children, ages 4 to 12, are invited to come make friends and become master builders during LEGO Club at the JFC Brunssum Library from 3 to 5 p.m. For more information, call DSN 364-2469 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5262469.

SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

Tickets on sale now

- **Into the Woods Jr.** - SHAPE Performing Arts School presents Fractured Fairy Tales in "The Emperor's New Clothes" and Fall Theater Camp in the musical "Into the Woods Jr." at the SHAPE Performing Arts Centre in Building 207. The curtain goes up **Dec. 10, 11 and 12** at 7:30 p.m. The curtain goes up on the Sunday matinee **Dec. 13** at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$10. To find out more, call DSN 423-3312 or civilian 065-443312 Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 6 p.m.
- **"Star Wars" Special** - Billed as "a very special entertainment event," the "Star Wars" Special blasts off at the Alliance Auditorium/SHAPE Cinema **Dec. 18**, the movie's opening night. Wear your best costume to get in the mood for Episode VII of the "Star Wars" franchise, and expect surprises. Doors open at 7 p.m. The feature presentation, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" (PG-13, 135 minutes), starts at 8:15 p.m. Seating on a "first come, first served" basis. Get your tickets at the Pizza Bowl bar. "The adventure continues" after the show at B3's in the Events Centre with the free Stars Wars Disco at about 10 p.m. Compete in a best-costume contest. Find out more at DSN 423-5696 or civilian 065-445696, or via email at pizzabowl@skynet.be.

Through Dec. 17

- **"Star Wars" Episodes I through VI** - Free showings of Star Wars movies Episodes I through VI continue at the Alliance Auditorium/SHAPE Cinema in preparation for Episode VII of the "Star Wars" franchise, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," coming to the big screen Dec. 18. For details, visit <http://shape2day.com/page1162729>. No movies tonight: SHAPE International School's Canadian Section holds its Christmas concert.

Dec. 15

- **Lunch and Learn** - Meet Tuesday in Chièvres Army Lodging from noon to 1 p.m. to hear the military family-life counselor present "Life in Balance: Relaxation and Stress Relief." Brown-bag it, and join the discussion.

Dec. 16

- **Résumé-writing workshop** - This workshop, offered in Army Community Service's Room 120 from 9 to 10 a.m., uses a career-planning process that includes self-assessment, personal development and a career portfolio as a way to gain initial entry into the workplace. Attendees will learn to prepare chronological, functional, hybrid and/or federal résumés while also learning to apply the knowledge, skills and abilities they've acquired in order to be marketable for the job they deserve. To register, call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824.

Dec. 19

- **Jingle Bell Jog** - Decorate yourself for the holiday season for a self-decoration contest before the Jingle Bell Jog, and compete for first-, second- and third-place prizes. This 5k/3k fun run/walk is open to all U.S. and NATO ID card-holders and will start at the Chièvres Community Activity Center in Building 20004. Pre-register at Chièvres Fitness Center. On race day, check in from 8:30 to 9:20 a.m. Self-decoration contest judging will be at 9:30 a.m. Run starts at 10 a.m.

Movies at SHAPE Cinema

Rates — 2D movies: adults €7.50 and children 11 and under €4. 3D movies: adults €9 and children 11 and under €6. Check <http://www.shape2day.com> under "Morale & Welfare (MWB)" for the movie schedule.

Theaters near SHAPE/Chièvres that play movies in English

Only the British or American movies listed as VO (Version Originale or Originele Versie) will be in English.

Plaza Art - Rue de Nimy 12, 7000 Mons (next to the main square). Visit <http://plaza-art.be/index.cgi?p=Grille>.

ImagiBraine - Boulevard de France, 1420 Braine l'Alleud. Check the schedule and purchase your tickets at: <http://kinopolis.be/nl/bioscopen/kinopolis-imagibraine>.

Kinopolis - Boulevard du Centenaire 20, 1020 Bruxelles. Take a look at movie listings at <http://kinopolis.be/fr/cinemas/kinopolis-bruxelles>.

Movies at JFC HQ Alliance Theater

Adult admission is €6.5 (ages 12 and older) - Child admission is €3.75 (ages 11 and under). Check the web page at <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/reel-time-theatres/Schinnen-1366146> for the movie schedule.

Travel the Benelux

Explore Tienen for a sweet journey

Story and photos by Tim Clark
USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

A former Roman settlement, Tienen has a sweet story to tell. Called Sugar Town by locals, this city in the Belgian province of Brabant has appealing museums, a large town square and, since 1836, Raffinerie Tirlemontoise, the sugar refinery that gives the town its nickname.

The market leader for sugar in Belgium, Raffinerie Tirlemontoise, produces sugar from sugar beets for industry and everyday consumption. Its logo, the block T on a blue background is well known not just in Belgium but all over the European Union. About 6 million tons of sugar beets are processed there every year.

Named for lake that once stood on the site and built in the 14th century, Our Lady of the Lake church dominates the east side of the square, which is one of the largest town squares in Belgium. Next to the church is Hero Square, a monument to honor the soldiers who lost their lives in the battles of the Belgian revolution, World War I and World War II.

On the south side is the town hall with a neoclassical façade, designed by architect Francois Drossaert. In front of the city hall, embedded in the pavement and made of white limestone is the rose compass. It doesn't mark the center of Tienen, but something much more macabre. The last beheading in Belgium took place on that spot in 1845.

On the north side of the square, in the former municipal court building is the suiker (sugar) museum. Behind the sugar museum, in the former city jail, stands Het Toreke, a museum displaying relics from the city's time as a Roman settlement. The exhibits feature the results of archaeological digs in the Tienen area and show the rituals of life and death of the Romans.

At Tienen's main attraction, the sugar museum, you will learn the history of the sugar beet, how it's grown, harvested and processed, and many interesting facts about sugar. An informative and entertaining audio guide (available in English) leads you through this sweet museum. Children will love all the interactive touch-screen displays with animated cartoon characters. In the "maternity ward," a row of cribs each with a sugar beet in one of its various stages of development line the room. It takes two years for a sugar beet to reach maturity. A model of a sugar refinery takes up one large room. Clips of 50 songs with the word "sugar" in them, many in English, will have you singing along in the music exhibit.

In 2016, Suikerrock, a popular music festival held in Tienen, will celebrate its 30th anniversary. Always held the last weekend in July, the festival draws thousands of music fans to the city every year.



(Clockwise) The maternity ward in the sugar museum is a favorite of children. • Our Lady of the Lake church stands on the square. • Tools used in the past for the sugar beet harvesting on display in the sugar museum. • Pottery found in archaeological digs around Tienen at the Roman museum.



Bûche de Noël has rich history, taste

by Tim Clark

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

At Christmastime, chefs and bakers all over the world bring out their special treats. In Belgium, sponge cake is baked flat, then rolled in a cylinder, frosted with butter cream and decorated to resemble a log. This Belgian Christmas favorite, bûche de Noël (Christmas log), has a history as rich as its taste.

The burning of a yule log originated as part of a pagan winter festival. On the winter solstice, the longest night of the year, families would burn a huge log, decorated with holly, pinecones and ivy, to celebrate the return of the sun. Once burned, the log's ashes were kept as charms against evil and misfortune. The ashes of the yule log were believed to hold magical and medicinal powers: The ashes were thought to help cure sickness.

Throwing some of the ashes into the fire during a storm was thought to protect the house from being hit by lightning.

When Christianity spread throughout Europe, Yuletide traditions, including the Yule log, were absorbed into Christmas festivities. As fireplaces became smaller and small stoves replaced large hearths, burning huge logs became impractical. Instead, a small branch was set on the table and surrounded by little sweets for visitors. A cake made to look like a tree branch eventually replaced this branch, and bûche de Noël was created.

Pick up a bûche de Noël at your local bakery, and think of the hundreds of years of history behind this Christmas treat as you enjoy it.



Upcoming organized trips

SHAPE Trips and Tours

Serving Brussels, Chièvres and SHAPE. Call DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-443884.

- **Alsace Christmas markets overnight in Triberg im Schwarzwald (Black Forest), Dec. 12 to 13**
- **Aachen and Monschau Christmas markets, Dec. 19**
- **Paris in winter, Dec. 28**
- **London New Year's, Dec. 30 to Jan. 1, 2016**
- **Amsterdam with the Heineken Experience, Jan. 16, 2016**
- **"The Nutcracker" Ballet, Brussels, Jan. 24, 2016 (Seats are limited.)**
- **Thermae 2000 in Valkenburg, the Netherlands, Jan. 30, 2016**
- **Malta, Feb. 5 to 10, 2016**
- **Paris with dinner cruise on the Seine, Feb. 13, 2016**

- **London with "Wicked" musical, Feb. 20, 2016**
- **Cooking class in Lille, March 12, 2016**
- **Oostende with Soul Legends, March 19, 2016**
- **Croatia with Venice and Slovenia, March 28 to April 6, 2016**
- **Berlin, April 29 to May 2, 2016**
- **Discounted tickets for many local attractions**

SHAPE Travel Group

Call civilian 0470-876369 for details.

- **Paris Lights, Dec. 15**
- **Snow World, the Netherlands (transportation and four-hour ski pass), Jan. 19, 2016**
- **Trocs and Leuven (Louvain), Jan. 28, 2016**

Schinnen Trips & Tours

Call DSN 360-7560 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437560.

- **Trips return in 2016.**



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

Dec. 11

- **Christmas concert in Ath** - Listen to Christmas music at Sainte-Vierge Church in Bouvignies at 8 p.m. Admission: €12 (ages 12 and up). Doors open at 7:15 p.m.

Dec. 12

- **Christmas Gospel Concert in Chièvres** - Listen to gospel Christmas music by Word of Truth International Christian Ministries at the Saint-Martin Church on Rue du Château. The free concert starts at 7 p.m. "Standing room only" at the back of the church.
- **Volksmarch in Brussels for 12 or 16 km** - Departs from the school at Avenue Ernest Renan 12 from noon to 5 p.m. Small participation fee.
- **Volksmarch in Tournai for 7, 10, 12 or 20 km** - Departs from the school at Avenue Leray 23 from noon to 3 p.m. for the 20- and 10-km routes and from 5 to 9 p.m. for the 7- and 12-km routes. Small participation fee.

Dec. 12 and 13

- **Christmas market in Jurbise** - Browse at "Salle Culturelle Jacques Galant" at Rue du Moustier 8 Saturday from 3 to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Christmas concert by the local band in Jurbise** - Listen to Christmas music at Saint Eloi Church on Route d'Ath, starting at 8:30 p.m. Free admission.
- **Visit the Erquelinnes brewery** - You can watch the various stages of brewing beer at the brewery at Rue



de Maubeuge 197 Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Christmas beer will be available for tasting.

Dec. 13

- **Volksmarch in Lens for 5, 10 or 20 km** - Departs from Rue du Thy 3 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Erquelinnes for 5, 10 or 20 km** - Departs from Rue de Maubeuge 197 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more Christmas markets, visit the USAG Benelux website at <http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil>, and check the listing for markets in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany under "Featured Items."



Read about events near Brunssum and Schinnen (in the Netherlands unless otherwise indicated).

Through Dec. 12

- **Winter fair in Garderen** offers a Dickens-style Christmastime experience in De beeldentuin at Oude Barnevelderweg 5. Open Dec. 3 to 4 and Dec. 9 to 11 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Dec. 5 and 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: €6.50.

Through Dec. 13, 16 to 20

- **Christmas market in Merode, Germany**, is when the Prince and Princess von Merode open Castle Merode to the public for a traditional Christmas Market. Open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 9 p.m., Fridays from 2 to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 2 to 10 p.m., Sundays from noon to 8 p.m. Admission: Wednesday through Saturday €6.50, Sundays €7; children, ages 6 to 16, €2.

Dec. 10 to 13

- **Christmas country fair near Beesd** is being held at "Heerlijkheid Mariënwaerd" estate. The main house is open to the public. This "Kerst-fair" offers choirs and more than 80 stands with a variety of Christmas articles. "De kerst-man" (Santa) can take you for a sleigh ride. Open Dec. 10 until 6 p.m., Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Dec. 11 and 12 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission: €10; youths, ages 13 to 17, €7.50; children, ages 11 and under, free.

Dec. 10 to 13 and 17 to 20

- **Christmas market in Bad Sassendorf, Germany**, offers a festive atmosphere for shopping. Open Thursdays and Fridays from 2 to 7 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Dec. 11 to 13

- **Christmas fair near Lisse** will be held in and around Castle Keukenhof across the street of the famous gardens. The court and castle are nicely decorated, and at the more than 100 stands you will find accessories, delicacies, plants and flowers as well as the usual Christmas decorations and articles. The castle itself can also be visited. Open: Dec. 11 and 12 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Christmas market near Altötting, Germany**, is a special Christmas event when Castle Tüßling opens its gates. Open Fridays from 3 to 8 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 8 p.m. Admission: €5; children, ages 6 to 15m €1.

Dec. 11 to 13, 18 to 20

- **Christmas market in Monschau, Germany**, will be held at the town square. Open Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sundays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.



Dec. 13 continued

- **Bicycle ride in Erquelinnes for 35 km** - Departs from Rue de Maubeuge 197 as of 9:30 a.m. Participation is free.
- **Volksmarch in Bassilly for 5, 10 or 20 km** - Departs from Place Communale 11 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Orientation trail in Ghlin for 2 to 4.5 km** - Departs between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Imagipark at Avenue du Grand Large 1. Participation fee: adult, €6; youth, €4.
- **Volksmarch in Saint-Vaast for 8, 12 or 20 km** - Departs from Allée Verte 23 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Small participation fee.
- **Night of the lights in Neufvilles** - This special event is a torch-lit march of 3 km in the streets of Neufvilles with musical stops, living nativity scene, fire-eaters and more on Place Louis Lefèbre, starting at 5 p.m.
- **Mountain bike ride (which can be walked too) in Lobbes for 10 or 30 km** - Departs from the school at Rue des Ecoles 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participation fee: €2 for the 10-km route and €5 for the 30-km route. All proceeds go to charity.
- **Flea market in Jemappes (200 booths)** - On Avenue Maréchal Foch from 4 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Hornu (200 booths)** - On Route de Mons (Cora) from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Flea market in Brugelette (six booths)** - On Rue des Déportés from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ongoing

Through Jan. 17, 2016

- **Exhibition "Mankind, The Dragon and Death. The Glory of St Georges" in Boussu** - The exhibition (including paintings, sculptures, drawings and illuminated manuscripts) shows how the iconography of St. George and the dragon has always been a powerful driver of the European imagination. At the MAC'S Grand Hornu site at Rue Sainte Louise 82. Open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, visit <http://www.mons2015.eu/en/man-dragon-and-death>.



Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.



Dec. 12 to 13

- **Scooge Festival in Arcen** takes the picturesque village back to the time of Charles Dickens in 1850. The town center is filled with characters in costume, live music, theater, vendors and activities. Open Dec. 12 from 3 to 10 p.m. and Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €5; children €4.
- **Dickens Festival in Wintelre** near Eersel will be held on Willibrordusstraat in the town center. The center will be transformed into a picturesque English village from Charles Dickens' time, and you may meet many characters from his books while visiting the Christmas market. Open Dec. 12 from 2 to 9 p.m. and Dec. 13 from noon to 6 p.m. Admission: €3.
- **Christmas market in Mesch** near Eijsden will take place at De Laathof Farm on Langstraat. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission.

Dec. 12 to 20

- **Floating Christmas market in Leiden** will offer more than 70 booths along the Nieuwe Rijn. Open from noon to 9 p.m.

Dec. 12 to 13, 19 to 20

- **Christmas market in Kerkrade** will be held at the 900-year-old Abbey Rolduc. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: €3.50.

Dec. 12 to 13, 19 to 20 continued

- **Christmas market near Jüchen and Mönchengladbach, Germany**, will be held at Schloss Dyck. Open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission: €12; children €1.50 (includes admission to castle/park).
- **Christmas market near Mechernich, Germany**, will take place at Burg Satzvey (castle). Open Saturdays from noon to 8 p.m., Sundays from noon to 7 p.m. Admission: €8; children, ages 4 to 12, €4; children, ages 12 to 18, €6.50.

Dec. 13

- **Christmas Market in Thorn** will take place in "De Grote Hegge" Manor and is considered to be the largest indoor Christmas market in the region. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: €5; children, ages 11 and under, free. An outdoor Christmas market will be held in the historic center of the "white city of Thorn" (so named for its characteristic white houses) from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ongoing

Through Dec. 20

- **Christmas show in Valkenburg** offers English country style at Rico's at Hekerweg 37. Open Fridays from 1 to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 5:30 p.m.