

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux news briefs

Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Rental move

The Chièvres outdoor recreation and equipment rental has relocated in the Community Recreation Center on Chièvres Air Base. Operation hours are Monday through Friday from noon to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call DSN 361-6268 or civilian 068-276268.

Job openings - AAFES

Chièvres Main Store is looking for laborers. Positions are temporary part-time work schedules. For more information, call DSN 361-5337 or civilian 068-275337.

CAC Card office closure

The USAG Benelux-Brussels CAC Card office, building 4, room 311, will close April 17-24. You can call the SHAPE ID card section to schedule an appointment at DSN 366-6292/6291 or civilian 065-44-6293/6291.

SHAPE flea market

The SHAPE flea market season is back April 26. Vendor permits will be on sale at the Events Centre, building 303 the Wednesday prior from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. For more information, call DSN 423-8341/8340 or civilian 065-448341/8340.

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Retired Maj. Gen. Koen Gijsbers, General Manager, NATO Communications and Information Agency, pins the NATO Meritorious Service Medal on Spc. Joshua A. Smith's uniform during a ceremony Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at the NCIA CSSC building, JFC Brunssum, the Netherlands. (Photo by Henk Van Der Velde)

See also page 2

U.S. Soldier receives NATO's highest honor

Special to the Gazette



Henk Van Der Velde

April 7 was a very special day for Spc, Joshua A. Smith who received the NATO Meritorious Service Medal, NATO's highest honor, during a ceremony held at the NCI Agency CIS Sustainment Support Centre, JFC Brunssum, the Netherlands.

On behalf of the NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, the NCI Agency General Manager retired Maj. Gen. Koen Gijsbers presented the award to OR-4 Joshua Smith while a military formation stood at attention.

This year, there were only seven awardees though NATO is authorized 150 per year. Smith stands up among them as the first OR-4 to receive this decoration because he "distinguished himself while performing preventive and corrective maintenance on deployable Satellite Based Transmission Systems while supporting NATO operations in Kosovo and NATO Communications and Information Agency supported locations," says the award citation. "His abilities as a technician supported corrective maintenance activities which involved the replacing of various Communications and Information System components to realign Radio Frequency and Satellite Communications. This enabled the operational theatre commander to transmit and receive mission critical information."

NATO MSM, highest honor to only a few

The NATO Meritorious Service Medal was approved by the North Atlantic Council, and is awarded to military and civilian personnel who have been commended for providing exceptional or remarkable service to NATO. The U.S. Secretary of Defense has approved the acceptance and wear of the NATO MSM for U.S. military and civilian personnel.

Eligible personnel are individuals serving permanently or temporarily within NATO's operational chain of command or in those forces under NATO command or control, or in a NATO Body, who are commended personally by a commander or a head of a NATO Body for:

- Performing acts of courage in difficult or dangerous circumstances; or
- Showing exceptional leadership or personal example; or
- Making an outstanding individual contribution in any activity or program; or
- Enduring particular hardship or deprivation in the interest of NATO.

NCOs inducted into Sgt. Morales Club

Story and photos by Andrea Wales

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

Sgt. Morales was just an ordinary guy doing his best with the hand he was dealt, which included taking care of his Soldiers and their families by getting to know them and their problems.

Sgt. 1st Class Brian S. Letterle, Staff Sgt. Regan Davis and Sgt. Bryan R. Teneyck took turns talking about Sgt. Morales and the different ways he took care of his squad on a daily basis during an April 10 ceremony in Chièvres to induct the three USAG Benelux Soldiers into the Sgt. Morales Club.

"They represent the strength of this nation. Truly they're the best among the best," said Command Sgt. Maj. Romeo Montez III, Installation Management Command-Europe's top enlisted adviser. "There's something about a leader being

out front that inspires and motivates. These noncommissioned officers know what it means to lead by example."

The exclusive club is for U.S. Army Europe noncommissioned officers who model themselves on the Sgt. Morales ideal. In 1973, when the Army was making the transition to an all-volunteer force, Lt. Gen. George S. Blanchard, the commander of VII Corps in Europe, created the fictional Sgt. Morales as a role model for USAREUR Soldiers, and the Sgt. Morales Club was born.

The three NCOs went through three formal boards to become members.

"The four-stage selection process to be in the prestigious Sergeant Morales Club was strenuous on its own," said Davis, who is the Headquarters and Headquar-

ters Company training NCO. "Competing while I was five months' pregnant added a little more difficulty."

Phase One involved obtaining the first sergeant's approval, she said. Phase Two and Phase Three were the battalion-level and brigade-level selection boards. Those two phases required a PT test, an appearance before the board and a unanimous vote from the board members.

Shotgun-style questions were mixed with hands-on activities, Davis said.

Phase Four required approval by the USAREUR command sergeant major. This final stage was by far the most difficult, Davis said.

"Being in a room with five sergeants major while they put immense pressure on you for more than an hour is intimidating," she said. "At times, I felt like they wanted me to break. I kept my composure and got through it, one task at a time."

A military policeman at USAG Benelux-Brussels, Teneyck's leadership philosophy embraces the "lead by example" concept so central to the Sgt. Morales Club.

"Never be afraid to get your hands dirty with your Soldiers, and always be willing to do what you ask of your Soldiers," he said.

Letterle, who is a provost sergeant at USAG Benelux's Directorate of Emergency Services, offered this advice:

"Teach, coach and mentor those around you so that, one day, they may take your place as a competent standard-bearer able to handle any situation."

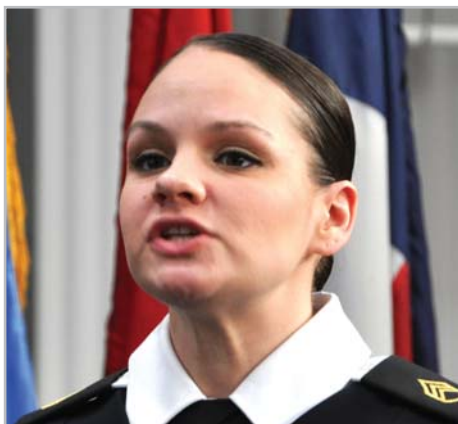
Read more about USAREUR's Sgt. Morales Club at <https://aepubs.army.mil/pdfpubs/AER600-2.pdf>.



The members of the official party — IMCOM-E Command Sgt. Maj. Romeo Montez III flanked by USAG Benelux 1st Sgt. Alejandro Romar and acting command sergeant major Master Sgt. Nicole Morris — enter the Sgt. Morales Club induction ceremony on Caserne Daumerie in Chièvres Friday, April 10, 2015. Montez is wearing his SMC medal, which is suspended from a red ribbon.



Sgt. 1st Class Brian S. Letterle



Staff Sgt. Regan Davis



Sgt. Bryan R. Teneyck

Trenches to Foxholes

424th Air Base Squadron honors downed aircrew



Eric Daniel



Eric Daniel



Eric Daniel

The 424th Air Base Squadron participated in a commemorative ceremony in Fouleng, Saturday, April 11, 2015. The ceremony honored the crew members of the B17 Royal Flush that crashed in a field at Fouleng, April 13, 1944. Americans and Belgians gathered to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice and to the local resistance who rescued three of the crew members by bringing them to safety prior to the arrival of the Nazis at the crash site.

(Top left picture) The U.S. Color Guard composed of, from left to right, Senior Airman Matthew Franck, Staff Sgt. Bradley Baker, Airman 1st Class Scotland Mikkelsen and Staff Sgt. Derrick Shelton, stand at attention during the wreath laying ceremony. (Bottom left picture) From left to right, Senior Airman John Norred, Senior Airman Nicolas Granado and Tech. Sgt. Richens Wootton salute during the commemoration. (Top right picture) Maj. Vilachack Ladara, representing the Commander, 424th Air Base Squadron salutes next to Mayor Christian Leclercq from Silly upon laying a wreath at the monument that lists the crew members of the B17 Royal Flush.



Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo

Members of the 424th Air Base Squadron stationed on Chièvres Air Base (top right and bottom left picture) also participated in a ceremony in Dergneau, Sunday, April 12, 2015. The ceremony honored the crew of the B24 Pale Ale that crashed in a field at Dergneau, Feb. 20, 1945 due to technical defaults. The ceremony was also attended by family members of Bombardier 2nd Lt. Henry Wynia. Wynia was one of the seven crew members who survived the crash.

American Legion Oratorical Contest I

ISB student makes it to semi-finals at national level

Special to the Gazette

Austin Muraille, a Junior from the International School of Brussels made it to the semi-finals at the American Legion National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis Saturday, April 11, 2015.

Muraille had previously placed first at the local and department levels. He won the American Legion Post "Flanders Field" BE02 High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest Jan. 24 at Brussels American High School and the Department of France's American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest Feb. 21 in Stuttgart, Germany.

The Oratorical Contest presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State

American Legion "Flanders Field" Post BE02 and the American Legion Auxiliary announce their 2015 candidates for Boys State and Girls State: Austin Muraille, International School of Brussels & Anna Sweet, Home-School/SHAPE JROTC.

American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State are among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students. It is a participatory program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government.

SHAPE Army Health Clinic itemizes billing

Special to the Gazette

Civilians and their family members who receive care at the SHAPE Army Health Clinic will see a difference in their bills for medical services starting June 1.

On that date, the clinic will switch from flat rate to itemized billing for U.S. and non-U.S. civilians and their dependents. Military members and their families, as well as military retirees and their families, will not be affected by this change.

The switch to itemized billing brings the SHAPE AHC in line with all other Department of Defense medical facilities around the world. The change means that civilian patients receiving services through the SHAPE AHC will be billed for the specific services they receive, rather than being billed at the flat rate of \$65 per visit.

The transition will actually help most people who have health insurance since itemized billing is the industry standard, said Nicole Gust, Europe Regional Medical Command Uniform Business Office Manager.

"Our customers who have other health insurance and receive care at a military treatment facility can now receive an explanation of benefits and bills that clearly identify the health care services received and their associated costs," Gust explained. "Claims submitted to the insurance companies will now be similar to those submitted by civilian providers. Our billing methodology will now mirror established industry practices, which will make it faster and easier for insurance companies to issue payments for services rendered."

In most cases, the change will be transparent to the user, Gust said, since most will still be responsible for their copays

and deductibles just as before the policy change. Itemized billing may help some people reach their deductible limits faster.

Charges for individual services are determined by the Department of Defense and vary based on the service provided. Chargeable visits are any that entail interaction between the patient and the health care provider that involve evaluation management services and includes documentation in the medical record. Referrals or consultations to a provider within any military treatment facility are considered charge-

"The transition will actually help most people who have health insurance since itemized billing is the industry standard." Nicole Gust

able visits. There is no charge for telephone consultations. While the Europe Regional Medical Command Uniform Business Office staff isn't able to estimate how much your next appointment will cost, according to Gust, they can tell you what your most recent

appointment would have cost under itemized billing.

Prescription fills and refills will also be included in the itemized charges. Visit the ERMU UBO web page at <http://www.eubo.healthcare.hqusaureur.army.mil> to download the Pharmacy Pricing Estimator Tool and for more information about the switch to itemized billing. Civilians may also reach the ERMU UBO at DSN 590-7400 or civilian +49 6371-9464-7400.

"In the weeks leading up to the change we are working diligently to notify civilians who will be affected by this change, share relevant facts about what's changing, and ensure resources are available where SHAPE civilians can get answers to any questions they may have," said Gust.

U.S. Soldiers, family member take up Kennedy's challenge

Special to the Gazette

Four Americans took up Kennedy's 52-year-old challenge April 4, in Sittard, the Netherlands.

Staff Sgt. James Downs, Spc. Joshua Smith, Maj. Rick Galeano, Alpha Company, Allied Forces Command North Battalion and Katrin Galeano, participated in the Kennedy Mars in Sittard.

The march is a 50-mile/80-km annual volksmarch sparked by President John F. Kennedy's 1963 speech, which postulated that, as a result of modern affluent society, "nobody can walk 50 miles within 20 hours anymore." To prove the president wrong, people all over the world walked that distance in that time. In Sittard, it all started April 20, 1963, when students from the Bisschoppelijk College in Sittard followed the American examples they had witnessed over the media. They started at the market square and walked 80 km within 20 hours. A new tradition was born.

This year, 2,634 walkers accepted the 50-mile/80-km walking challenge.

"This was my second walk and I have been looking forward to it all year," said Smith. "There are memories of the walk that I will have forever; the children with huge smiles excitedly offering water and candy along the way, the Dutch crowds coming together for a beer and celebrating the day as you walk by and the quaint Dutch countryside that unfolds in front of you as you pass from village to village. On top of all of this, it is 50 miles! At the finish line, you have mentally and physically taxed yourself to the limit. You have accomplished something that can never be diminished or taken away."

Smith's enthusiasm has been emulated as he was joined by Downs this year. "I have done the Kennedy Mars not only for the epic experience, but to prepare for the Vier Daagse March," he explained.

"It was a great experience trekking through all of the villages and centurms; meeting friendly people along the way. I would do it again!"

The other Alpha Company participants was a husband and

wife team Rick and Katrin Galeano. They considered this both a challenge and a unique marriage retreat. "The Kennedy Mars was an exhilarating event," the major reflected. "It was amazing to see the number of people of all ages doing this event."

Unfortunately, he couldn't make it to the end as he was forced to end the walk at the half-way mark due to a knee injury.

All four walkers tackled the cold and rain in the early morning hours. They started at around 5:30 a.m. at the market square in Sittard. With a map in their hand, they followed a path that took them through the Netherlands and Belgium. The five resting areas provided them with food, water, first aid and massages if needed. "Everyone involved was kind and helpful. We met and chatted with many fellow walkers and were well taken care of at each resting point. It made a difference. The care received helped me physically and mentally to finish the race," said Katrin Galeano.

At the end, Downs, Smith and Galeano finished the 80-km walk. They had started in the dark at the market square in Sittard and finished in the dark at the same location. According to them, it was a unique experience they will never forget.

At the end, the pain of blistered feet was only temporary, but the pride of finishing this challenge is permanent.



(Clockwise from top) Staff Sgt. James Downs, Maj. Rick Galeano and Spc. Joshua Smith take a break at the 28-km resting station in Posterholt, the Netherlands. • Katrin Galeano takes a last break in Belgium, 15 km to the end, Saturday, April 4, 2015.



Trenches to Foxholes

Mark your calendar - Upcoming ceremonies

Victory in Europe Day ceremonies

- **Friday, May 8 in Chièvres**, time to be confirmed;
- **Friday, May 8 in Brugelette**, time to be confirmed;
- **Friday, May 8 in Ath**, time to be confirmed.

Wereth ceremony

- **Saturday, May 16 at 11 a.m.**, U.S. Memorial Wereth in Amel (BE).

Memorial Day ceremonies

- **Saturday, May 23 at 10 a.m.**, Ardennes American Cemetery in Neuville-en-Condroz (BE);
- **Saturday, May 23 at 4 p.m.**, Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Aubel (BE);
- **Saturday, May 23 at 2 p.m.**, Luxembourg American Cemetery in Luxembourg;
- **Sunday, May 24 at 3 p.m.**, Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem (BE);
- **Sunday, May 24 at 3 p.m.**, the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten (NL);
- **Friday, May 29 at 2:30 p.m.**, Memorial Day ceremony at Bastogne, at the Mardasson.

Chièvres PSC 490 Post Office is temporarily relocating

Special to the Gazette

Due to the renovations that will be made to the current PX-tra, the Chièvres PSC 490 Post Office will be moving to building 8 on Caserne Daumerie effective May 8.

The Postal Finance Window and the Official Mail Section will be closed on this day and the Personal Mail Delivery Section will be closed from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to allow personnel to move the mail and equipment from one facility to the other.

The Personal Mail Delivery Section will then re-open from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. at building 8 on Caserne Daumerie to allow customers to pick up any mail they may have.

Addresses and receptacle numbers will not change, but combinations of the mailboxes will. Your new combination will be placed in your current receptacle within the next couple of weeks.

Postal Finance will be re-open May 12 with normal operating hours at the new location. If you need to mail out an item on either May 8 or 11, the SHAPE postal facility will be fully operational from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. these days.

For additional information, contact the postal facility at DSN 361-5472 or 068-275472.

Newcomers get introduced to their new environment

SHAPE Newcomers' orientation briefings are offered to newly arrived personnel and their families April 23, May 21, July 30, Aug. 20, Sept. 24 and Oct. 22 at the SHAPE Club.

These meetings consist of welcome breakfasts from 8:30 to 9 a.m., introductory briefings providing the best qualitative information from 9 to 10 a.m. followed by information booths (run by the tourism offices of the Province of Hainaut and of Mons, Trips and Tours, recreational and sport organizations) from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

The objective is to provide information that will help newcomers from both SHAPE and Chièvres become familiar with their new environment and to make the process of settling in easier.

In the afternoon, you are invited to take part in a guided tour of Mons, the 2015 European Capital of Culture. You can participate the same day of the briefing or at your convenience during other selected dates suggested to you throughout the year.

On each Tuesday following a briefing, the Morale and Welfare Branch invites you to join the Discovery Days. The intention of these trips is to help you discover some popular tourist sites of Hainaut. These visits will give you an insight of the treasures of the cities in Hainaut and help you enjoy the atmosphere, folklore and history. These trips will allow you to meet people from other countries, as being a newcomer is always easier when you have acquaintances on base.

Registration is required at <http://www.shape2day.com>. For more information, call DSN 423-4265 or civilian 065-444265.



Safety Office hosts BRC training

The USAG Benelux Installation Safety Office will host a Basic Rider Course training May 27-28 on Chièvres Air Base. The training will consist of a two-day class in building 131 and hand-on on the MSF range.

The targeted audience is active Army personnel in possession of a sovereign country motorcycle license or endorsement.

Registration is required and open at https://imc.army.mil/airs/usg_disclaimer.aspx.

The class will be cancelled if the minimum required attendance is not reached eight days prior to the training.

For any questions pertaining to legal requirements such as motorcycle type, registration, licensing, personal protective equipment, etc. contact the Safety Office at DSN 361-6114.

Volunteer for you community

Your help is needed to make "The Rob Lake Magic Show" a success. The show will be held on Friday, April 17 at the JFC Brunssum Alliance Theatre.

The different volunteer opportunities are as follows:

- Four volunteers to serve as loading crew upon arrival: assist with unloading truck, loading show equipment into theatre, and setup of the show (up to 4 hours). Volunteers must be willing and able to lift heavy equipment, and must be wearing proper clothing including closed toe shoes. Report to Alliance Theatre at 1:15 p.m.

- Four volunteers to serve as loading out crew after the show: break down equipment, re-pack containers and load back on the truck (packing time will take about 3 hours). Report to the Theatre at 8:15 p.m.

- Spotlight operators (operators to be trained upon load-in) and required to assist with autographs/souvenir distribution after performance. Report to the Theatre at 5:45 p.m.

If interested, email the group mailbox jfcbsdssfmbcas@jfcbs.nato.int.

Trenches to Foxholes

Next week in World War history (April 19 to 25)

World War I

1915

April 22 - German forces shock Allied soldiers along the Western Front by firing more than 150 tons of lethal chlorine gas against two French colonial divisions at Ypres in Belgium.

April 23 - Rupert Brooke, a young scholar and poet serving as an officer in the British Royal Navy, dies of blood poisoning on a hospital ship anchored off the Greek island of Skyros, while awaiting deployment in the Allied invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula.

April 25 - A week after Anglo-French naval attacks on the Dardanelles end in dismal failure, the Allies launch a large-scale land invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula, the Turkish-controlled land mass bordering the northern side of the Dardanelles.

1916

April 24 - Around noon on Easter Monday, some 1,600 Irish nationalists—members of the Irish Volunteers—launch the so-called Easter Rising in Dublin, seizing a number of official buildings and calling on all Irish patriots to resist the bonds of British control.

1917

April 20 - An ambitious Allied offensive against German troops near the Aisne River in central France, spearheaded by the French commander in chief, Robert Nivelle, ends in dismal failure.

Nivelle, who had replaced Joseph Joffre in December 1915 as head of all French forces, had tenaciously argued for a major spring offensive in spite of powerful opposition in the French government, at one point threatening to resign if the offensive did not go ahead. He was convinced that by implementing the tactics he had used to considerable success at Verdun during the French counter-attacks in the fall of 1916, on a greater scale, the Allies could achieve a breakthrough on the Western Front within 48 hours.

1918

April 21 - In the skies above the Somme River in France, Baron Manfred von Richthofen, the notorious German flying ace known as the Red Baron, is killed by Allied fire.

Richthofen leads his squadron deep into Allied territory on a search for British observation aircraft. The flight draws the attention of an Allied squadron led by Canadian Royal Air Force pilot Captain Arthur Roy Brown. As Richthofen pursues a plane piloted by Brown's compatriot, Wilfred R. May, the Red Baron ventures too far into enemy territory and too low to the ground. Two miles behind the Allied lines, just as Brown catches up with Richthofen and fires on him, the chase passes over an Australian machine-gun battery, whose riflemen open fire. Richthofen is hit in the torso; though he manages to land his plane alongside the road from Corbie to Bray, near Sailley-le-Sac, he is dead by the time Australian troops reach him. Brown is often given credit for downing Richthofen from the air, though some claim it was actually an Australian gunner on the ground who fired the fatal shot; debate continues to this day.

World War II

1939

April 25 - The Chinese counter offensive toward Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, China reaches the outskirts of the city.

1940

April 24 - British forces, along with Australian, New Zealand, and Polish troops, begin to withdraw from Greece in light of the Greek army's surrender to the Axis invaders. A total of 50,732 men are evacuated quickly over a six-day period, leaving behind weapons, trucks, and aircraft.

1941

April 19 - Erwin Rommel personally inspects the front lines in the Libyan-Egyptian border area.

1942

April 23 - In retaliation for the British raid on Lubeck, German bombers strike Exeter and later Bath, Norwich, York, and other "medieval-city centers." Almost 1,000 English civilians are killed in the bombing attacks nicknamed "Baedeker Raids."

1943

April 19 - Heinrich Himmler sends more than 2,000 Waffen SS soldiers to combat the Jewish resistance. German tanks, howitzers, machine guns, and flamethrowers are met with Jewish pistols, rifles, homemade grenades, and Molotov cocktails. The Jews fend off the German assault for 28 days. Finally, SS General Jurgen Stroop sets the entire ghetto block on fire and blows up the synagogue. By May, 56,065 Jews are dead.

1944

April 22 - Allied forces land in the Hollandia area of New Guinea. The Japanese occupiers, only 15,000 in number, many of whom are on administrative duty, fight for more than three months against incredible odds at great cost: When the battle for the northern coast of New Guinea is finally won by the Allies, 12,811 Japanese are dead, compared with 527 Americans.

1945

April 20 - Allied bombers in Italy begin a three-day attack on the bridges over the rivers Adige and Brenta to cut off German lines of retreat on the peninsula. Meanwhile, Adolf Hitler celebrates his 56th birthday as a Gestapo reign of terror results in the hanging of 20 Russian prisoners of war and 20 Jewish children: Of these, at least nine are under the age of 12. All of the victims had been taken from Auschwitz to Neuengamme, the place of execution, for the purpose of medical experimentation.

April 21 - Soviet forces fighting south of Berlin, at Zossen, assault the headquarters of the German High Command. The only remaining opposing "force" to the Russian invasion of Berlin are the "battle groups" of Hitler Youth, teenagers with anti-tank guns, strategically placed in parks and suburban streets. In a battle at Eggersdorf, 70 of these Hitler teens strove to fight off a Russian assault with a mere three anti-tank guns. They were bulldozed by Russian tanks and infantry.

Next week in World War history is compiled from various sources by Keith Houin, USAG Benelux public affairs.

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

Sign up now

- **Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and Luncheon** - All volunteers in the Brussels community who are registered with Brussels Army Community Service are invited to attend the USAG Benelux-Brussels Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and luncheon at the 3 Star **April 30** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided for registered volunteers. Reservations are required. To register for the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and luncheon, call DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-7179783.

April 16

- **Family Dinner at 3 Star** from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Enjoy taco buffet. Make your (required) reservation at reservations3star@yahoo.com. Cost: Adults \$8, children \$4.
- **Employment classes/Dress for success & Interviewing Tips and Techniques** in building 4, second floor from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information or to register, call DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-7179783.

April 17

- **3 Star Recreation Night** - Recreation Night features games, cards, music and movies from 5:30 to 11 p.m. Snacks and beverages available for purchase: crispy chicken tenders, daily homemade soup, potato wedges and more. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-7179822.

April 21-22

- **Host Nation Orientation** at the ACS Conference Room, building 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All newcomer's and spouses are invited to learn about their new community, including local customs, culture, and language. For more information or to register, call DSN 368-9783/9729 or civilian 02-7179783/9729.

April 21

- **Library Book Club** - The club meets from noon to 2 p.m. at the library. The April book discussion is "Rules of Civility" by Amor Towles. Call DSN 368-9791 or civilian 02-7179791.

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

Sign up now

- **Flea-market booths** - Schinnen Outdoor Recreation hosts a flea market **May 23** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Schinnen Activity Center. Setup at 9 a.m. Cost per table is \$10. For registration or more information, contact Outdoor Recreation at DSN 360-7560 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437560.
- **CYSS Archery/blow darts clinics** - Enrollment for ages 10 to 18 is open through **April 17** with program starting April 30. For more information, call DSN 364-3121 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5263121.
- **Country Line Dance Evening** - Sign up now for free country line dancing **May 9** at the E3A Club, NATO Airbase Geilenkirchen. Register at linedancers_for_fun@hotmail.com.

April 16-17

- **Host Nation Orientation/Newcomer's Tour** at ACS from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All newcomer's and spouses are invited to learn about their new community, including local customs, culture, and language. For more information or to register, call DSN 360-7512/7500 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437512/7500.

April 17

- **The Magic of Rob Lake** - Enjoy an evening of Magic and Mystical wonder at the JFC Brunssum Alliance Theater. Rob Lake is known worldwide for sold-out performances and record setting international tours. Showtime is 7 p.m. Free admission.
- **Home Buying Seminar** - Learn how to weed through the home-buying jungle and gather the knowledge and strategies every home buyer should know before beginning the hunt. The class is held in building 39 from 11 a.m. to noon. For more information, call DSN 360-7500 or civilian+31 (0)46-4437500.

April 21

- **Spring Pop** - Open-mic night for all aspiring musicians, poets and performers from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Youth Center, JFC Brunssum, building 602. Open to all U.S. and NATO eligible youth in grades 6-12. For more information, call DSN 364-3121/2023 or civilian +31(0)455263121/2023.
- **Family Art Exhibit Evening** - Join from 6 to 7 p.m. for an evening of art appreciation: youth works of art depicting this year's Month of the Military Child theme "Their Lives, Their Stories". For more information, call DSN 364-3121/2023 or civilian +31(0)455263121/2023.

April 22

- **Toddler 411 and Positive Parenting** at the Child Development Center, room Y006 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The group will discuss topics related to toddlerhood (ages 18 months to 3 years). To register or for more information, call DSN 360-7335/7500 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437335/7500.

April 23

- **Employment Classes/Interviewing Tips** in the ACS Conference Room from 10 to 11:30 a.m. For information or to register, call DSN 360-7269/7500 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437269/7500.

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY I CONTINUED

April 23, 30

- **Scream-free Parenting/Raising your kids by keeping your cool** held at ACS, building 39 from 1 to 3 p.m. For more information, call DSN 360-7453/7500 or civilian + 31 (0)46-4437453/7500.

April 24

- **Month of the Military Child Celebration** -Join in honoring our community's Military Children from 3 to 6 p.m. at the CYSS Facility on JFC Brunssum. Activities include bouncy houses, games, face painting, and arts and crafts. Refreshments will also be served. Children must be accompanied by parents in order to participate. All Military Families are welcome. For more information, call DSN 364-3121/2023 or civilian +31(0)455263121/2023.
- **Mobilization & Deployment/Hearts Apart** - ACS offers a support group for youth separated from a loved one, whether through a deployment or a family situation from 2 to 3 p.m. at AFNORTH International School. For details please call the ACS Deployment Readiness office at civilian DSN 360-7269/7500 or +31 (0)46-4437269/7500.

SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

Sign up now

- **Career Exploration Trip to Microsoft**- The trip will be held **April 29** from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is open to children in grades 9 through 12. To find out more or register, call DSN 423-6104 or civilian 065-446104.
- **Registration open for Summer Theater Camp** - Children in grades 3 through 9 can bring the musical "HONK Jr." to the SHAPE Performing Arts Centre during Summer Theater Camp. Session begins **June 29** and runs through Aug. 1. To find out more, call DSN 423-3312 or civilian 065-443312 Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 6 p.m.
- **Registration open for Driver's Education** - The training is for children ages 16 through 18. Spaces are limited so priority will go to those currently attending 12th grade. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from **April 21 through June 11** from 4 to 6 p.m. To find out more or register, call DSN 423-5611 or civilian 065-445611 Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 6 p.m. Costs: \$175.

April 16

- **CYSS Colorful Run** - For ages 5 to 18, the run will be held on the SHAPE track from 2 to 6 p.m. Registration is open until April 15. Children 5 to 11 must be accompanied by their parents at the event. For more information, call DSN 423-6039 or civilian 065-446039.
- **The Magic of Rob Lake** - Enjoy an evening of Magic and Mystical wonder at the SHAPE Alliance Auditorium. Rob Lake is known worldwide for sold-out performances and record setting international tours. Showtime is 7 p.m. Free admission.

April 17

- **Volunteer Recognition Ceremony** at the SHAPE Club Ballroom from 10 a.m. to noon. This free event celebrates the effort and support that volunteers provide to the SHAPE/Chièvres Community. All volunteers who are registered in the Volunteer Management Information System, or VMIS, are welcome to attend, but reservations are required. To make a reservation, call SHAPE Army Community Service at DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824.

April 18

- **BigBandLier concert** - Free concert by the jazz ensemble BigBandLier at the SHAPE Shoopong Center at 2 p.m.

April 20-21

- **Host Nation Orientation/Newcomer's Tour** at the ACS Conference Room, building 318, SHAPE. All newcomers and spouses are invited to learn about their new community, including local customs, culture, and language. For more information or to register, call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824.

April 21

- **Employment classes/Interviewing techniques** at the ACS Conference Room fom 9 a.m. to noon. For more information or to register please call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824.

April 23

- **Mexican Dinner for single service members** in the first-floor dayroom of the Single Soldiers Quarters, Caserne Daumerie, at 6 p.m. Open to single service members living in the barracks on Chièvres Air Base and Caserne Daumerie. For more information, call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065- 326824.
- **Kids Day 2015** - A day full of games, exploration, activities, food vendors and live performances. Open to all U.S. and SHAPE ID card holders. Kids Day will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Recreation Center on Chièvres Air Base. For more information call DSN 366-6824 or 065-326824.

April 24

- **Take back the night run** at the Green Gym, SHAPE, with signing proclamation. Registration for the run is from 3 to 4 p.m. The run departs at 4 p.m. For more information, call DSN 366-6268 or civilian 065-326268.

'Travel the Benelux'

The area where three countries are one step apart



The three countries area close to Vaals, the Netherlands, is the area where Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany come together.

The area has been a strategic, political and economic highlight for its residents since the Roman empire. Throughout the centuries, Vaals has been tied to Aachen, Germany. Rich factory owners were building their secondary residence in the Vaals area.

A hundred years ago, the three countries area was a four countries area. After Napoleon's defeat in 1815, the European borders had to be re-established. The border between Prussia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands was not easy to set because both countries wanted to incorporate the zinc mine in Kelmis, near Moresnet. Eventually, the area around the zinc mine remained a neutral area with an 11-km border under the name Neutral Moresnet. In 1830, when the southern part of the Netherlands became a self-governing state known as Belgium, the area became a four 'countries' area.

During World War II, as the borders were closed, Vaals got isolated and part of the three countries area was also destroyed. In September 1944, the Wilhelminatower, which offered a nice view over the Netherlands and Germany, was heavily destroyed during the battle of Aachen but later rebuilt. The period immediately following WWII is the time when the economy of Vaals thrived with countless Germans crossing the border to come shop in the Netherlands and this is also the time when the black market flourished in the area. The numerous walking trails in the area are some of the trails used by the smugglers of the time.



In the area

- Find your way in the largest labyrinth of Europe. Open April through Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry: €5 per adult, children under 12 are €4.
- "De Grenssteen" (border stone) walking route of 12 km and "Gezond op stap" (Healthy on the go) walking route of 12 km or samples of the walking routes in the area. Both walks start at Taverne de Grenssteen, Vaals. For more tourist information in the area, check www.vvvzuidlimburg.nl.

Driving distance

From Schinnen: 27 km or 30 min.
From Mons: 193 km or 2 hrs.
From Brussels: 144 km or 1h40.

Upcoming organized trips

SHAPE Trips and Tours

For information, call DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-443884

- **Keukenhof Gardens and Gouda, April 18**
- **Giverny, France: Monet's Home and Gardens, April 25**
- **Polish Pottery and Czech Crystal Shopping Trip, May 1 to 4**
- **Paris, May 2**
- **Thermes de Spa, Belgium, May 9**
- **Amsterdam, May 23**
- **Normandy Beaches, May 29-31**
- **London, June 6**
- **Stonehenge with Salisbury & Oxford, June 13-14**
- **Somme Battlefield and Peronne Museum, June 20**
- **Phantasia Land, Bruehl, Germany, June 27**
- **Pamplona Bulls Run, July 6-9**
- **Disney Paris, July 15**
- **Dolfinarium in Harderwijk, the Netherlands, July 23**
- **Atlantic Wall Museum and Oostende, Belgium, Aug. 8**
- **London, Aug. 15-17**
- **Medieval Dinner in Bruges, Aug. 22**
- **Thailand, Dec. 20-Jan. 2**

SHAPE Travel Group

For information, call civilian 0470-876369.

- **Polish Pottery and Giethoorn, April 24**
- **Giverny, France: Monet's Home and Gardens, May 7**
- **London and Chelsea Flower Show, May 21**
- **Amiens and Les Hortillonages (Floating Gardens), June 2**
- **Provins Medieval Festival, June 13**
- **Paris, June 18**
- **Hampton Court Palace and Gardens, June 30**

Schinnen Trips & Tours

For information, call DSN 360-7560 or civilian+31-(0)46-4437560

- **Keukenhof Gardens, April 25**
- **Day Trip to Delft, May 9**
- **Luxembourg and American Cemetery, May 30**
- **Disney Paris, June 6**
- **Berlin Express, June 13**
- **Canoeing & Biking, June 27**
- **D-Day landing beaches, memorials and battle monuments in Normandy, France, July 17 to 20 (register by May 15)**
- **Dutch Day, July 31**



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

Through April 19

- **33rd Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival** - The festival is held at the Center for fine arts, main entrance on Rue Ravenstein. For detailed program, check <http://www.biff.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Programme2015.pdf>.

April 17-19

- **Beer fest in Mons** - This year is the 20th edition of the Mons beer fest on the Grand'Place with beer tasting of various local beers, some 22 brewers on site and musical entertainment Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. until 1 a.m. and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
- **Garden fair in Enghien** - At the castle with more than 150 booths open from 2 to 7 p.m. on Friday and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Admission: €10 per person, children 14 and younger get in free.

April 17 through May 9

- **Visit the Royal Greenhouses in Laeken** - Every year,



the greenhouses are opened to the public for only three weeks. During this period, visitors can admire the architectural structures but also a large number of rare and valuable plants. Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m. and from 8 to 10 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 8 to 10 p.m. Admission: €2.50 per person, free of charge up to 18 years old.

April 18

- **Volksmarch in Brussels for 8, 16 or 22 km** - Departs from Boulevard des Invalides 224 in Auderghem from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Small participating fee.
- **Volksmarch in Ladeuze (Chièvres) for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs from Rue de la Liberté 23 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Small participating fee.
- **Flea market in St Vaast (40 booths)** on Place Victor Gondat from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Flea market in Woluwe-St-Lambert (300 booths)** - On Avenue du Bleuët from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April 18-19

- **Medieval fest in Binche** - Visit a medieval camp and watch demonstrations of fighting in armor, archery, medieval games or stop by one of the booths for some typical meals. At the city park from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Event is free of charge.



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

April 18

- **Ladies Day at the Sea in Katwijk aan Zee** is an attractive beauty, fashion and lifestyle event especially for women with lots of shows, demonstrations and tastings held at Huys te Britten on Noorduinseweg 17. Admission: free. Open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Farm and Flower market in Lochristi (BE)** with flowers, plants, regional products, entertainment and lots more at Dorp Oost from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

April 18-19

- **The Spring Fest in the center of Herdecke (GE)** is a flower and garden market combined with a farmer market and antique and flea market.
- **Flea market in Maastricht** from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at MECC. Admission: €3.50.
- **Flea market in Wieze (BE)** held at Oktoberhallen on Schroverstraat 19. Open both days from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €2.50; children 11 and younger get free entrance.
- **Antique and Curiosa Fair in Wijk bij Duurstede** with more than 95 participants. Open April 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and April 19 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April 18,25

- **Antique & curiosa market in Roermond** is held at Kloosterwandplein in the center of town from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April 19-26

- **Antique, art & curiosa market in Maastricht** is held on Boschstraat from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- **Art and Antiques fair in Rosmalen** is held at Autotron on Graafsebaan with vendors from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and April 23 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission: €15

April 18-19

- **Flea market in Maastricht** from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at MECC. Admission: €3.50.

April 19

- **Art market in Eersel** in the garden of "De Acht Zaligheden" Museum, Kapelweg 2. Admission : €2. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **The Reptile Fair in Leiden** at Holiday Inn on Haagse Schouwweg has besides snakes, spiders, insects, turtles and other species of the reptile family accessories such as lamps, waterfalls, wood, exotic plants and more to decorate the terrariums. The fair is open from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Admission: €5.

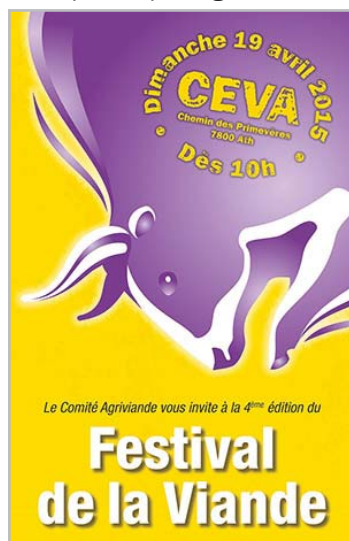
Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.



April 19

- **Volksmarch in Petit-Roeulx-lez-Braine for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs from Rue du Centre 7 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Willaupuis for 5, 10 or 20 km** - Departs from Rue de la Forge 31 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Givry for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs from Chaussée de Brunehaut from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Ath for 5, 10, 20, 30 or 40 km** - Departs from the agricultural school on Rue Paul Pastur from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Small participating fee.

- **Meat Festival in Ath** - This year's theme is "Beef in various ways" with 100% beef meals, kids activities, mechanical bull, cooking contest, food tasting and more. Entry is free of charge at the CEVA hall, Chemin des Primevères starting at 10 a.m.



- **Recycling market in Ecaussinnes** - Market gives a second life to everything that can be used around the house on Rue de la Haie, 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Spring market in Ecaussinnes** - Flowers and savors from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the square. Kids will be able to sell or exchange their toys.
- **Flea market in Soignies (100 booths)** - On Place Verte and Place Van Zeeland from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Flea market in Ath (80 booths)** - On the Delhaize parking at Rue de l'Abbaye 6 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Flea market in Houdeng-Goeignies (50 booths)** - On Place de Goeignies from noon to 7 p.m.
- **Flea market in Hornu (200 booths)** - At the Cora on Route de Mons from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Flea market in Braine-l'Alleud (180 booths)** - On Avenue de la Croix Rouge from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April 19-21

- **Book Festival in Redu** - Walking through the village of Redu, you will see books in booths alongside the street, in shops and barns.

April 23, 24 and 25 (presale tickets available now)

- **"La Ronde des Innocents" in Chièvres** - Play relating the story of Gérard le Rond, butcher in Chièvres in the year 1252, who was killed for a cow. Play is all three days at 8:30 p.m. on the Chièvres square. Presale tickets are at €12 per adult and €8, under 26 years old and can be bought at the Chièvres Tourist Office on the square.



April 19 continued

- **Antiques and flea market in Limbricht** at the inner court of Castle Limbricht, Allee 1 near Sittard. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry: €2.
- **The Amstel Gold Race in Maastricht** is a professional cycle race for men and women which starts at 10 a.m. in Maastricht and finishes in the center of Valkenburg around 6 p.m.
- **Maiensonntag (May Sunday) in the center of Rhede (GE)** is a fest celebrating Spring with all kinds of products for your garden, arts and crafts, regional products and delicacies, entertainment and lots more from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Through May 10

- **The Frick Collection in The Hague** is on display at Mauritshuis on Korte Vijverberg 8. The Frick Collection is the art collected by Pittsburgh industrialist Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919). This is the first time the foundation has allowed such a large part of its collection to be on display outside of the museum in New York. The exhibition includes works from artists like Van Eyck, Ingres, Cimabue and Liotard, covering the period from the 13th and 19th centuries. For information on address, opening hours and prices at <http://www.mauritshuis.nl>.

Through May 17

- **Keukenhof gardens near the town of Lisse** This year, the international flower exhibition has chosen "Vincent van Gogh" as its central theme. Open daily 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Ticket office closes at 6 p.m. Admission: €16; children, ages 4 to 11, €8. Visit <http://www.keukenhof.nl/en>.



Through Sept. 4

- **Alkmaar cheese market.** Cheese has been weighed in Alkmaar since 1593. Cheese carriers carry thousands of kilos of cheese from 'Waagplein' square to the weighing house. Cheese carriers can be seen in action every Friday between 10 a.m. and noon until the first Friday of September.