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THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux News Briefs

Fitness Center hours

The Chièvres fitness center is now open 24/7. Eligible users will be able to register their ID card and gain entry into the Fitness Center during non-regular hours. The Brussels fitness center is not yet open 24/7 but registration is.

Volunteers needed

MWR is in need of volunteers to assist with activities and food sales for the World Cup Match event - Belgium vs England - June 28 at the SHAPE fest tent. Visit the Chièvres MWR page to sign up.

New Food truck in Chièvres

The Simply British food truck will begin serving fish and chips to the Chièvres community in mid-June; every Tuesday for lunch and all day Friday at the Exchange.

Track renovation

The SHAPE outdoor athletic track will be undergoing renovation starting June 4.

Fitness instructors needed

The SHAPE Sports and Fitness Center is looking for volunteer and freelance fitness instructors. Contact 314-423-5325 for more information.

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Thousands to celebrate the Doudou in Mons

Participants try to grab hairs of the dragon, which supposedly brings luck, during the battle called "Lumeçon". The Lumeçon is the top moment of the Doudou, a week of festivities that will take place in Mons from May 24 to June 3. The Doudou has been recognized by Unesco as a "Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity." (Photo by Christophe Morel)

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Scaparrotti honored for Distinguished Military Leadership

Courtesy of SHAPE Public Affairs Office

General Curtis M. Scaparrotti was honoured by the Atlantic Council May 10, 2018 with a Distinguished Military Leadership Award in recognition of his remarkable military career, during which he facilitated cooperation and development of common approaches to shared global security challenges and fostered ties among leaders across the NATO alliance and beyond.

"As we gather this evening, tens of thousands of NATO forces from all 29 Allied Nations are deployed around the world contributing to operations, missions, and training exercises, in the Arctic and the High North; in Afghanistan; along the Eastern Alliance border; in multi-national battlegroups from Estonia to Romania; in naval task forces in the North Atlantic, Baltic, and Black Seas and in the Mediterranean; and over the skies of Europe providing air surveillance," said Gen. Scaparrotti. "These men and women of NATO are demonstrating the Alliance's ability to change and remain relevant as they secure peace and demonstrate NATO's resolve."

General Scaparrotti congratulated the other honorees, former President George W. Bush, Grammy Award winner Gloria Estefan and Executive Chairman of Starbucks Corporation Howard Schultz, stating that he was deeply humbled to be recognized amongst the group — "a two-term President of the United States; a visionary servant-leader who built a famous, global company; a Grammy Award Winner and philanthropist... and then me, a Soldier from Logan, Ohio."



General Curtis M. Scaparrotti was honoured by the Atlantic Council May 10, 2018 with a Distinguished Military Leadership Award in recognition of his military career. (Courtesy photo)

General Scaparrotti stressed the importance of NATO's mission in Europe, stating the US and NATO face this complex and dynamic security environment. Together, the Alliance must keep its resolve to obtain the defense posture we need, preserve the unity of the Alliance, and to strengthen the international order.

"This is why now, more than ever, we must articulate our principles with clarity, consistency, and conviction. We must communicate our narrative of freedom, democracy, and rule of law. We must affirm the importance of our alliances and partnerships, which remain the backbone of global security," Scaparrotti said.

Every year, the Atlantic Council hosts a distinguished international leadership award ceremony to honour leaders who serve as pillars of the transatlantic community.

This award is the highest honour granted by the Atlantic Council. Previous recipients include NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, Gen. Phil Breedlove, Adm. Michelle Howard, and General Joseph Votel.

To watch the Atlantic Council Distinguished Leadership Awards ceremony, go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAqat7QZae0. ◆

THE GAZETTE

To submit or subscribe, email usarmy.benelux.id-europe.list.pao@mail.mil

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Cultivating counselors



Therese Ayers, Equal Employment Opportunity manager, answers questions from EEO counselors May 9 during a week-long training. Counselors from all over Europe came to USAG Benelux to learn about the EEO complaint process. The EEO counseling program provides a system to carefully consider and fairly and expeditiously resolve allegations of discrimination. (Photo by Kristin Ellis)

Schinnen's Army Birthday Ball Events

This year's Army Birthday Ball will be held June 30 at 6 p.m. at the Van der Valk Hotel in Heerlen, the Netherlands. Tickets are €60. For tickets call +31 (0)6 5630065 or email armyball243@gmail.com. To help organize the ball here are some upcoming events:

- **May 22** - Great American Breakfast at Josey's from 7:30 to 9 a.m. in Bldg. H203 at JFC Brunssum.
- **May 23** - Southern Style Lunch at Josey's from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Bldg. H203 at JFC Brunssum.
- **May 25** - Game Night beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the International Conference Center.

Arlington Cemetery looking for input

Courtesy of Arlington National Cemetery Public Affairs Office

Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) launched a second survey and encourages the public and its various stakeholders to continue to share their thoughts on an important issue - the future of Arlington National Cemetery.

The cemetery is at a critical crossroads in its history. In approximately 23 years, Arlington National Cemetery will run out of space and no longer be an active cemetery. The Army has been asked by Congress to consider what might be done to preserve ANC as an active military cemetery well into the future, or for generations to come.

There are only two basic factors that affect the life of ANC - available land and the rate at which burials are requested.

ANC's location more than four miles inside of the Capital Beltway limits the amount of expansion available to only a few small parcels of land, and at ANC's current rate of services, each acre will only extend the life of the cemetery by three months.

In July 2017, the cemetery conducted a survey in partnership with several military and veteran organizations.

The more than 28,000 respondents shared that keeping ANC open well into the future is paramount. They also communicated that - if eligibility at ANC is limited - those killed in action, Medal of Honor and other high award recipients, former POWs, and those active duty service members who die on operational missions should have a place at ANC.

The survey can be accessed on the cemetery's website at: www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/eligibility-survey.◆

Take action during underage drinking prevention week

An alarming number of pre-teens are drinking alcohol - which makes it urgent to find every opportunity to talk to your kids about the dangers of underage drinking.

Rates of underage drinking in the United States are high. Underage drinking has severe consequences, including:

- Injury or death from accidents
- Unintended, unwanted, or unprotected sexual activity
- Academic problems
- Drug use

Research shows that parents are the leading influence on their child's decisions about alcohol. Although it may not seem like it, when parents talk about underage drinking, their children do hear them.

Also, alcohol can harm the developing brain.

To prevent young people from starting to drink, the campaign focuses on ages nine to 15. Around nine years old, children begin thinking alcohol may not be just for adults.

By 15, many young people are drinking. Young people who start drinking before age 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol problems as adults than those who begin drinking at 21 or older.

Check out the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's mobile app to practice bringing up the topic of alcohol, learn the questions to ask, and get ideas for keeping the conversation going at: www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov. ◆

Battle of Belleau Wood centennial, Memorial Day events approaching

Special to the Gazette

To coincide with Memorial Day weekend, Aisne-Marne American Cemetery in France will host a ceremony May 27 at 9:45 a.m. that marks Memorial Day and the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Belleau Wood and Operations in the Aisne-Marne region during World War I. Attendance is free and open to the public.

Aisne-Marne American Cemetery is the final resting place to more than 2,000 Americans that gave their lives in World War I.



Marines of the 2d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, with a German trench mortar captured in Belleau Wood. Image courtesy of The National Archives.

Belleau Wood is located on the high ground to the rear of Aisne-Marne American Cemetery south of the village of Belleau (Aisne), France. In the center of the road leading through the woods is a flagpole and a monument commemorating the valor of the U.S. Marines who captured this area in 1918.

It commemorates the actions of the 4th Marine Brigade of the U.S. Army's 2nd Division. The 2nd Division attacked German positions beginning June 6, 1918. The 4th Marine Brigade liberated Bouresches that day. Its 5th and 6th Marine Regiments fought in Belleau Wood through most of June 1918.

Their gallant actions resulted in the Battle of Belleau Wood ending on June 26. On June 30, 1918, the Commanding General, French 6th Army, officially renamed Belleau Wood as "Wood of the Marine Brigade."

The 2nd Division sustained casualties of 8,100 officers and men during the intense fighting in this vicinity during June 1918. Vestiges of trenches, shell holes, and relics of the war to include weapons found in the vicinity, may be seen near the marine monument, which was erected by the U.S. Marine Corps.

For information on parking and shuttle service, visit: www.abmc.gov. ◆

Upcoming Memorial Day ceremonies in the Benelux:

Belgium

May 26 at 10 a.m. at Ardennes American Cemetery in Neupré, Belgium.

May 26 at 4 p.m. at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Hombourg, Belgium.

May 27 at 3 p.m. at Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem, Belgium.

June 1 at 2:30 p.m. at the Mardasson in Bastogne, Belgium (organized by the city of Bastogne)

France

May 26 at 9:30 a.m. at the Cantigny Monument in Cantigny, France.*

May 26 at 3 p.m. at Somme American Cemetery in Bony,France.*

May 27 at 9:45 a.m. at Aisne-Marne American Cemetery in Belleau, France

May 27 at 10 a.m. at Lafayette Escadrille Cemetery in Marnes-la-Coquette, France.

May 27 at 10 a.m. at Rhone American Cemetery in Draguignan, France.

May 27 at 10:30 a.m. at Epinal American Cemetery in Dinozé, France.

May 27 at 10:30 a.m. at Normandy American Cemetery in Normandy, France.

May 27 at 11 a.m. at Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in Romagne-Sous-Montfaucon, France.

May 27 at 11 a.m. at Lorraine American Cemetery in Saint-Avold, France.

May 27 at 2:30 p.m. at Suresnes American Cemetery in Suresnes, France.

May 27 at 3 p.m. at Oise-Aisne American Cemetery in Seringes-et-Nesles, France.

May 27 at 4 p.m. at Saint-Mihiel American Cemetery in Thiaucourt-Regniéville, France.

May 27 at 4 p.m. at Brittany American Cemetery in Montjoie-Saint-Martin, France.

May 27 (time TBD) at Château-Thierry Monument in Château-Thierry, France.*

Luxembourg

May 26 at 2 p.m. at Luxembourg American Cemetery in Hamm, Luxembourg.

The Netherlands

May 27 at 3 p.m. at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, the Netherlands.

Ceremonies held at isolated graves in Belgium can be found at www.fieldsofhonor-database.com/index.php/isolated-graves.

* World War I Centennial event

Inside the Gate

ALL COMMUNITIES

Government Driver's License

- Per the Headquarters, Department of the Army (HDQA) decision, the Army Accident Avoidance Training online is no longer required to obtain the government vehicle driver's license. For questions, call DSN 366-6603.

MWR Arts and Crafts Contest

- This contest recognizes the artistic talent and creativity in two experience levels: Novice and Accomplished. Entries can be submitted in one of nine categories. Participants must complete the online profile and submit photos of the artwork between midnight June 11 and 11:59 p.m. August 13 at the contest website: https://cloud.mwr.army.mil/apptrac. Find out more information and contest rules at: www.armymwr.com.

Through May 25

- **Second Quarter Joint Top III Scholarship Award Contest** - The Joint Top III and Andrews Federal Credit Union are offering a scholarship to active-duty enlisted service members and enlisted spouses. Award of the scholarship will be based on a specific essay topic writing contest. The essay must be two pages with double spaced, original work, and references included. The topic is "Explain the importance of your degree of study in today's society (or military)? How will your education shape who you are or who you want to be?" The deadline for essay submissions is May 25. One award of $150 will be offered. You must be enrolled in accredited college to apply. Send your email essay or questions at negron.kristy@hq.nato.int or mocerino.robert@hq.nato.int.

The following are VTC-projected class. For information about and to register for VTC classes, contact:

- For SHAPE: DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)65-326824
- For Brussels: DSN 368-9783 or +32 (0)2-7179783
- For Schinnen: DSN 360-7500 or +31 (0)46-4437500



May 24, July 12/26 & Sep. 13/27

- ***Couples Communication*** - Offered by Army Community Service. Do you want to improve the way you communicate with your spouse? Learn how to speak differently to each other from 10 a.m. to noon. Call now to register for the class.

June 14/28 & August 9/23

- ***Positive Parenting*** - Offered by Army Community Service. Learn techniques on how to teach your child to control themselves from 10 a.m. to noon.

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

See also above in "All Communities."

Every Monday and Thursday

- ***Lunchtime Yoga*** - Relax and refresh during the work day from 12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m. at the Brussels Fitness Center. For more information, call DSN 368-9667 or +32 (0)2-7179667.

Every Tuesday

- ***Tax Assistance*** - The Northern Law Center will provide U.S. federal and state income tax assistance to eligible clients on Tuesdays in Bldg. 4 in room 316. Services are by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call DSN 423-4868 or +32 (0)65-444868. For more information on legal services and documentation needed for tax returns, visit www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/org-legal.html.

Every Thursday and Friday

- ***Community Movie Night*** - Enjoy free entertainment at the 3 Star Recreation Center starting at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or +32 (0)2-7179822.

Every Friday

- ***3 Star Recreation Night*** - Join the Brussels community for games, cards, music and movies starting at 5 p.m. at the 3 Star Recreation Center. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Line dancing will start at 7 p.m. on the first and third Friday of the month. Karaoke will be held on the second and fourth Friday of the month starting at 6 p.m. U.S. Military, NATO, U.S. Embassy and mission cardholders are welcome. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or +32 (0)2-7179822.

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

See also above in "All Communities."

Closures

- ***JFC Library*** - The JFC Brunssum Library will be closed May 19 to 21 for the Pentecost holiday. For more information, call DSN 606-244-2469 or +31 (0)45-5262469.
- ***Andrews Federal Credit Union*** - AFCU will be closed from May 18 at noon until May 21 at 9 a.m. For online account assistance, Mobile Apps, Online Banking and Remote Check Deposit are available 24/7.
- ***IACS Office*** - The Schinnen IACS Office at the MP station will be closed May 21 for Pentecost.

Inside the Gate

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY (Cont'd)

Tri-Border AA 12 Step Meeting

- AA meeting provides a venue where members can go and talk about their recovery as well as any problems they experience along the way. If the individual who is doing the talking has built a successful recovery, then it can inspire other members. Held at the JFC Brunssum Chapel every Wednesday evening from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. For more information, call +31 (0)6-50416741.

Every First and Third Tuesday

- ***Open Wall Climbing*** - This is available at the Schinnen Climbing Wall in the Andre Bruls Fitness Center. Cost for adults is $40 for five visits or $10 for one visit. Cost for children age 12 and under is $32 for five visits or $8 for one visit. For more information, call DSN 360-7370/7560 or +31 (0)46-4437370/7560.

May 18

- ***American Legion Post NL01 General Membership Meeting*** - The meeting will be held at 5 p.m. in the Schinnen Bowling Center. Chartered by the American Legion National Headquarters, the Margraten Post was formed by veterans to help fellow veterans, their families, widows of veterans and orphans. The mission continues as Margraten Post continues to serve U.S. military veterans in addition to maintaining and building relations with veterans of our Allied Nations to honor all sacrifices. For more information, go to www.facebook.com/PostNL01.



May 18

- ***Host Nation - Newcomer's*** **Orientation & Cultural Tour** – From 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at Schinnen ACS, all newcomers and spouses are invited to learn about their new community, including local customs, culture, and language. On day one, explore the Dutch culture with an introduction to the language and get an overview of Tri-Border services. On day two, go beyond the gate to visit a few local attractions, shopping areas, and learn how to use the local train system. For more information or to register, call DSN 360-7500 or +31 (0)46-4437500.

May 19

- ***Pickleball games*** - From 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Andre Bruls Fitness Center as part of the Army's S.T.R.O.N.G. bands program.
- ***Volleyball*** - Beginning at 1 p.m. as part of the Army's S.T.R.O.N.G. bands program.

SHAPE/CHIÈVRES COMMUNITY

Tax Center Services

- The Northern Law Center will provide U.S. federal and state income tax assistance at SHAPE Bldg. 318 to eligible clients from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and noon to 5 p.m. Services are also on Chièvres Air Base inside Andrews Federal Credit Union on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Services are by-appointment only! For more information, call DSN 423-4868/4906 or +32 (0)65-444868/4906 or email nlctaxcenter@gmail.com.

POV and GOV Orientation Classes

- POV Orientation Class is conducted at SHAPE Bldg. 220 in room 104 every Tuesday at 8 a.m. to noon. Schedule an appointment in order to receive study material. GOV Orientation Class is conducted every Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. U.S. and Canadian personnel must complete a POV orientation to obtain SHAPE driving license. For more information, call DSN 366-6603 or +32 (0)65-326603.

Every Monday and Wednesday

- ***Functional Fitness (Stroller Friendly)*** - Join the Chièvres Fitness Center (Bldg. 20004) on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., for an adult, high-intensity, full-body workout using body weight and basic equipment followed by 30 minutes of indoor cycling. Kids are welcome. Parents are responsible for their children during the class period. Open to all U.S. and NATO ID cardholders.

Every Tuesday

- ***SHAPE Library Preschool Story Time*** - Help your little ones get a head start on early reading skills by attending the SHAPE International Library's weekly story times. Preschool Story Time, designed for children age 3 to 6, meets every Tuesday at 4:15 p.m. in the children's room of the library. Participants will enjoy stories, finger plays, songs and lots of giggles. Story Time helps children build confidence, learn socialization skills and make friends. For more information, call DSN 324-5631 or +32(0)65-445631.



Inside the Gate

SHAPE/CHIÈVRES COMMUNITY (Cont'd)

May 18

- ***Polish Day*** - The Polish National Military Representative hosts a Polish Day event to celebrate the 227th anniversary of the first Polish constitution at the Alliance Auditorium at 6 p.m. Following the concert will be a reception in the SHAPE fest tent accompanied by the Riviera vocal band.

May 21

- ***"Expresso Yourself"/EFMP Community Outreach and Discussion Group*** - Meet with other adults enrolled in EFMP and parents with children who are enrolled. Make connections, build networks, and share resources with others who understand your experiences from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Army Community Service in SHAPE Bldg. 318. For more information, call DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)65-326824.
- ***Gospel Concert*** - Eddie James will perform at the SHAPE Alliance Theater (SHAPE Cinema) beginning at 7 p.m. The event is free.

May 24

- ***Train Trip to Brussels*** - From 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m., participants will learn how to use the train, experience Belgian culture, explore Brussels' Grand Place and also make new connections. Please plan to buy ticket and bring lunch money. For more information about the itinerary and to register, call DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)65-326824.
- ***Motorcycle Training*** - There will be an Experienced Rider Course (ERC) from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Motorcycle Safety Foundation Range on Chièvres Air Base, including classroom portion at Bldg. 20105. This one-day course builds upon and provides additional skills. It includes a fast-paced classroom segment with several interactive activities to improve perception and hazard awareness. Soldiers who own/operate touring/cruiser model motorcycles must complete this course every five years. Additionally, Soldiers must complete this training following a five-year riding hiatus, the acquisition of a new or change in motorcycle, or a major geographic relocation. Upon course completion, graduates are issued an MSF ERC completion card which is good for five years. For registration, contact the USAG Benelux Installation Safety Office at DSN 361-6114 or +32 (0)68-276114.



- ***Bike and Run*** - SHAPE Sports and Fitness hosts the SACEUR Sports Bike and Run competition May 24. For more information, contact +32 (0)65-445325.

May 29 & June 18/19/25

- ***Host Nation Orientation*** - Learn about the community, tour a Belgian hospital, learn about Belgian customs, sample traditional Belgian cuisine, learn basic French, enjoy a cultural tour of Mons and learn about public transportation and shopping. Held Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Tuesday from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration is required. For more information, call DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)65-326824.

May 30

- ***Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month*** - From 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the SHAPE Auditorium.

June 1-2

- ***Make-a-Wish Run*** - The annual 24-hour run event in support of Make-a-Wish Foundation will be held at the main gym at SHAPE. Team registration ends **May 18**. For information, contact 314-423-5325. *Please note, due to Make-a-Wish support, the SHAPE gym will have restricted hours of operation: June 1 from 5:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will be closed Saturday.

June 12

- ***Deadlift Challenge*** - SHAPE Sports and Fitness hosts this swimming challenge. For more information, contact +32 (0) 65-445325.

June 15

- ***Fun Mudder*** - CYS hosts a Fun Mudder obstacle course to celebrate the Army's birthday from 4 to 6 p.m. This is a family-friendly event open to children and adults. Cost is $5 for children and $10 for adults. Registration ends June 7.

Through June 19

- ***English Channel Challenge*** - SHAPE Sports and Fitness hosts this 400,000 lbs. challenge. For more information, contact +32 (0) 65-445325.

June 28

- ***World Cup*** - MWR will host a watch party of the World Cup match between England and Belgium June 28 from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the SHAPE fest tent. This match is the kick-off to the U.S. Independence Day celebration June 29.

Outside the Gate

Zaanse Schans: an unforgettable experience

By Rita Hoefnagels
USAG Benelux Public Affairs

Each year many tourists visit the open air museum of Zaanse Schans in the Dutch province of North Holland. The museum is a unique village where numerous historic buildings have been collected and restored to their former glory.

Zaanse Schans is part of the Zaan district located at the River Zaan across from the Netherlands capital of Amsterdam. Centuries long logs from as far as Scandinavia were taken to the many sawmills along the river and sawn into timber. The wood was used for buildings as well as for the fleet of the capital.

This and the production of all sorts of windmills, including oil mills, made this region the world's first industrial area and the town of Zaandam one of the largest timber ports in the world. Nearly all the houses in the Zaan district are built of wood. But there was also a thriving shipbuilding industry with sailcloth weaving mills, smithies and whale-oil refineries.

The district became well-known and many famous people visited. The Russian Czar Peter the Great spent time in Zaandam to learn about shipbuilding and he took this knowledge back to Saint Petersburg. Emperor Napoleon exclaimed that Zaandam was 'Sans-Pareil' (equaled by none) when he visited.

The name Zaanse Schans goes back to the 16th century when during the Eighty Years' War a schans (entrenchment) was located here as defense to enemy troops. Many soldiers were killed here during the battle against the Spanish troops. But the local people won and since then the word schans is associated with this village.



The idea for the Zaanse Schans museum developed when many residents of the river Zaan district became concerned about the disappearing of their cultural heritage. A place was created for historic Zaan-style wooden buildings such as old mills, merchants' houses, warehouses and other buildings from the area.
Little by little historic buildings were relocated here (most recently this year) and nowadays it is a working and living museum where Old Dutch crafts like clog making, cheese-making and pewter casting provides a good impression of the Netherlands' rich history. Some of the houses still serve as homes to local residents. Others house a museum, restaurants and shops.

The Zaanse Schans is open year-round between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily, and there are typically no entrance fees to pay. However, some of the mills and historic houses will ask for a small entrance and parking fee. The address is Schansend 7, Zaandam.

UPCOMING ORGANIZED TRIPS & TOURS

SHAPE Trips & Tours
Serving Brussels, Chièvres and SHAPE. Call DSN 423-3884 or +32 (0)65-443884.

- Oxford and The Cotswolds, May 19-21
- Dover Castle and Canterbury, May 26
- Cologne with Breakfast Cruise, June 2
- Amsterdam, June 9
- Monet's House and Gardens in Giverny, France, June 16
- London, June 23
- Bruno Mars Concert in Paris (SOLD OUT), June 30
- Luxembourg City, July 7
- Beyonce and Jay-Z Concert in Paris, July 14
- Rotterdam with Harbor Tour, July 14
- Dolfinarium in Harderwijk, The Netherlands, July 21
- Strasbourg, France, July 28
- Honfleur, France, Aug. 4
- Paris, Aug. 11
- London, Aug. 12-15
- Disneyland Paris, Aug. 18
- Kevin Hart Comedy Tour in Antwerp, Aug. 25
- Flower Parade in Zundert, The Netherlands, Sept. 2
- Heidelberg & World's Largest "Wurst" & Wine Festival in Bad Dürkheim, Germany, Sept. 15
- Trier, Germany, Oct. 13

Schinnen Trips & Tours
Call DSN 360-7560 or +31 (0) 46-4437560.

- Go Karting, May 19
- Shopping Trip to Oberhausen Mall, May 23
- London Express, May 26
- Deep Sea Fishing, May 26
- Disneyland Paris, June 2
- "Bridge too Far" Operation Market Garden Trip, June 16
- Clay pigeon and small caliber shooting, June 23
- Amsterdam, July 14
- Weekend Trip to Normandy, July 20-23
- NFL Game at Wembley Stadium, Oct. 27-29

Outside the Gate

250,000 people are expected to attend the Doudou

By Christophe Morel
USAG Benelux Public Affairs

From May 24 to June 3, more than 250,000 people will participate in the Doudou, an event that no citizen of Mons would dare to miss.

Mons' Doudou (also called Ducasse) was recognised by UNESCO in 2005 as a "Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity." The most anticipated part of the event will be the Trinity weekend, during which the public will pay tribute to Saint Waudru, the Patron Saint of the city, and will participate in the battle known as "Lumeçon."

On Saturday evening, starting at 8 p.m., there will be a ceremony in the Collegiate Church, during which the Dean of the Church will entrust the Relics of Saint Waudru to the mayor of the city. At the end of the ceremony, all the participants will sing the song of the "Doudou." A torch light procession from Rue de Nimy to the Grand-Place will start at 10 p.m.

On Sunday, the traditional procession will start at 9:30 a.m. from the Collegiate Church, followed by the Golden Carriage ("Car d'Or") at noon.



Sunday, May 27 at 12:30 p.m., thousands of people will try to grab hairs of the dragon, which supposedly brings luck. (U.S.Army photo by Christophe Morel)

At 12:30 p.m., Saint George will fight the dragon on the Grand-Place. He will be accompagned by the Devils, the Chin-chins, the men in white, the leaf men, the Firemen and the Policemen.

The combat will last half-an-hour, to the sounds of the "Doudou" music, and thousands of people will try to grab hairs of the dragon, which supposedly brings luck. At the end of the"Lumeçon", after a few attempts, Saint George will finally kill the Dragon with a last pistol shot, and the bells of Mons will start playing. The festivities will continue with musical entertainment.

Excitement gradually grows throughout Trinity weekend. Friday night, there will be a free concert at 10 p.m. with Mistercover, Lea Paci, Suarez, Alice on the Roof, Nadiya, and others.

Monday, after the Trinity weekend and for the first time, there will be the first "Doudou Sound party" with few DJs who will perform on the Grand-Place. There will be also the traditional "braderie", huge sales in the streets, Monday and Tuesday. Don't miss the fireworks Tuesday at 10:45 p.m. on the Grand-Place. ◆

Road closures during six days

Many streets will be closed during the Doudou. From May 24 to May 29, 24 hours a day, there will be fixed barriers at different places in the city center.

There will be also removable barriers Friday, Monday and Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m., (except on Rue d'Havré, Friday from 1 p.m. to 3 a.m.), Saturday from 4 p.m. to 3 a.m., and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 3 a.m.

Free parking will be available on Rue Damoiseau, Avenue Maistriau, Avenue du Tir, Avenue des Guérites, Place Nervienne, Chaussée du Roeulx/Chaussée de Binche, at the Grand Large (with free shuttles to the city center), Lotto Mons Expo (with free shuttles too), and the train station.

Always check the closing time of the parking. ◆



Many streets will be closed. (Courtesy graphic)

Remain vigilant

Maintain situational awareness at all times when attending events involving large crowds such as the Doudou in Mons.

- Avoid locations which restrict or limit your movement and ability to exit the venue quickly
- Pre-establish easily recognizable meeting spots to be used as emergency evacuation points where you and your family/friends can gather if needed.
- Move away from fights, incidents and avoid panicked crowds.
- Report any suspicious activity, unattended bags or anything outside of the norm.
- Also, if you are in the crowd on the Grand-Place Sunday as Saint George and the dragon arrives, be careful as the crowd will split in order to let them through. ◆

Outside the Gat

Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

Through Sept. 2

- ***Star Wars Identities Exhibition in Brussels*** - Two hundred costumes, props, models, and pieces of artwork are yours to discover. The collection spans all six *Star Wars* movies and the ongoing television series *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*. Held at Brussels Expo - Hall 2 on Place de Belgique. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €22.90 for adults on site (€21.90 if purchased online) and €16.90 for children (€15.90 if purchased online).

May 18-20

- ***Cervia Medieval in Chièvres*** - Festivities will start Friday with a procession with Baudouin IV and Alix, the giants of the Ath Fair, at 6 p.m. on the Grand Place. On Saturday and Sunday starting at 11:30 a.m., people are invited to visit the camps and craftsmen around Chièvres. The festival and a medieval market will be held around the Saint Martin Church and Tower Gavre. On Sunday, at 11:30 a.m., people can attend the Medieval Mass of the Saint-Jacques congregation. No entrance fee.

May 19

- ***Craft Market in Brugelette*** - More than 90 craftsmen will present their products. There will be also food and drinks, bouncy castles, games, activities, and more. Held on Avenue Gabrielle Petit, 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. No entrance fee.
- ***Flower Market in Saint-Ghislain*** - With lots of flowers as well as plants and decorations. Held on Grand'Place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. No entrance fee.
- ***Flea Market in Braine-le-Comte*** - Held on Square de la Liberté, 3 featuring 600 booths from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

May 19-20

- ***Mons'ter Market*** - You will find creations and accessories related to the Doudou fest in Mons. Held at Rampe du Château, 2 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. No entrance fee.

May 19-21

- ***Tour Saint Vincent and historical procession in Soignies*** - Whit Monday is a special day for Soignies and its citizens. Saint Vincent is considered the founder of Soignies and was also the husband of Waudru of Mons. Festivities start Friday with a religious ceremony at Collegiale Saint Vincent at 11:30 a.m.. Tour Saint Vincent starts Sunday at 6 a.m. from the Collegiate Church. At 11:30 a.m., don't miss the historical procession starting from Chaussée d'Enghien. Through the weekend, there will also be a fair on Place Verte and Place Van Zeeland.

May 21

- ***Volksmarch in Hautrage for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km*** - Departs from Place d'Hautrage, 44 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

May 18-21

- ***"Lepeltje, Lepeltje" in Amersfoort*** - Food trucks, music, and crafts market. Held at Burgemeester Brouwerplantsoen. Open Friday from noon to midnight, Saturday and Sunday from noon to 1 a.m., and Monday from noon to 10 p.m. No entrance fee.
- ***Jazz in Duketown in Den Bosch*** - Concerts take place daily at 8 p.m. in the center of the town with entertainers from all over the world. No entrance fee.
- ***Wine Market in Gütersloh (GE)*** – Held at Theatervorplatz. Open Friday from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from noon to 11 p.m., and Monday from noon to 8 p.m. No entrance fee.
- ***Harbor & Naval Days in Vollenhove*** – A naval parade, a flea market, old crafts, music, shows, and more. Open daily as of 10 a.m. No entrance fee.

May 18-27

- ***Days of Opera in Rotterdam*** - An international opera and music-theater festival held at several special locations. For more information, times and locations, visit https://www.operadagenrotterdam.nl.

May 19

- ***Sheep Shearers Festival in Exloo*** - With crafts, demonstrations, championships, music, and more. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. No entrance fee.

May 19-20

- ***International Needle Art Tattoo Convention in Gorinchem*** – The event has the newest designs and techniques, music, jewelry, and more. Held at Evenementenhal on Franklinweg, 2. Open Saturday from noon to 10 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 9 p.m. Entry is €15, €25 for a weekend ticket.
- ***"Militracks" in Overloon*** - An event about military technology of WWII with vehicles and a military equipment & accessories market. Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The War Museum is also open.Entry is €18 for adults, and €12 for children age 4 to 12.
- ***Meimarkt (May Market) in Tilburg (NL)*** – The market starts Saturday at 10 p.m. and ends Sunday at 5 p.m. with 750 participants. No entrance fee.

May 19-21

- ***"Eten op Rolletjes" in Ede*** – With 30 food trucks, theater, and music. Held at Akoesticum fields. Open Saturday and Sunday from noon to 11 p.m., and Monday from noon to 10 p.m. No entrance fee.

May 20

- **Limburg Championship Living Statues in Thorn** Open from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Entry is €2.50

May 21

- ***"Pure Pinksterfair" in Vaassen*** - A country lifestyle fair held at Castle de Cannenburch on Maarten van Rossumplein, 4. Open Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry is €7.50.

Outside the Gate



Highway Construction and Road Closures

You may experience some delays while driving in Belgium this season. Road construction projects are occurring throughout the country and may result in temporary lane closures and road congestion. We will provide regular updates to ensure that the community is informed and prepared.

Brussels: Major construction began in Brussels. The goal is to renovate the Leopold II tunnel. During the months of July and August, the Leopold II tunnel will be closed, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The rest of the year, the tunnel will be blocked during the nights from Sunday to Thursday, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. One possible option is to use two parking garages around Grand Bigard and then take the public transports.

Route d'Ath in Jurbise : The road construction on Route d'Ath has stopped for now. The work is scheduled to start again in the end of May. The last phase, near the Fortis Bank (Route d'Ath 339), will last for five days.

Schinnen (A76): Due to the construction of the new on and off ramps on A76 (Highway Heerlen-Geleen), exit Schinnen #4 from Heerlen towards Geleen is closed. This results in the closure of the hard shoulder on both sides of the highway and a speed restriction of 70 km per hour until Jan. 31, 2019. Traffic should follow the yellow signs directing them to exit #2 Geleen-Beek and then access #2 on the A76 direction to Beek-Schinnen. The new A76 on and off ramps are scheduled to be completed in the fall.

Silly (RN 57): Road constuction is ongoing on Chaussée de Ghislenghien, between Rue Mauvinage and Rue du Noir Jambon, in both directions. There is a deviation, or detour, via the village of Thoricourt. Work is expected to be completed by the end of May.

Andenne/Daussoux (E42/A15): The three-way yard project between Andenne and Daussoulx has been underway since August. This project involves 15 km in both directions. Two lanes of traffic will be maintained. Work is scheduled to be completed by August 2018.

Please be cautious and patient while driving at all times. If you have questions or would like to report other highway construction sites and road closures, please email the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Public Affairs Office at usarmy.benelux.id-europe.mbx.communication@mail.mil.