



PROUDLY SERVING THE
BENELUX COMMUNITY

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELGIUM AND GERMANY TO OBSERVE LABOR DAY ON MAY 1

Several countries including Belgium and Germany will observe Labor Day on May 1. During this day, services provided by SHAPE and NATO may be closed or have limited hours. Please know that local stores and businesses may be closed in observance of the holiday. There may be planned demonstrations and protests occurring on this day in cities across Europe. As always, please stay vigilant and avoid crowded areas.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GARRISON FULL-SCALE EXERCISE IN MAY

USAG Benelux will conduct a Full-Scale Exercise **May 17 and 18** on Chièvres Air Base. We are looking for volunteers, age 18 and over, to serve as role players and controllers for the exercise for approximately five to six hours on **May 17**. Interested in participating? Please email our S 3/5/7 office at usarmy.benelux.id-europe.mbx.dptms@mail.mil.

TRI-BORDER COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN USE FORAX CARDS AT ESSO STATIONS

The Schinnen Exchange Gas Station closed April 19. Patrons can still get fuel on the economy with their FORAX card at ESSO stations in The Netherlands. More information on the program is on [The Exchange](#) website. For updates on the Schinnen Troop Store and other Exchange services, follow their [Facebook](#) page.

ARMY LAUNCHED HOUSING HEALTH REGISTRY TO ADDRESS HOUSING HEALTH OR SAFETY CONCERNS

The U.S. Army Medical Command is establishing a [Housing Environmental Health Response Registry](#) to address housing health or safety concerns of current or former Army housing residents. Anyone interested in enrolling in the registry can call the toll-free hotline at DSN 312-421-3700.

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF CAMPAIGN RUNS UNTIL MAY 15

The 2019 Annual Army Emergency Relief campaign is happening now through May 15. The annual campaign provides support to Soldiers with emergency financial needs. Anyone can donate on the [AER website](#). For more information about AER, please contact your unit representative or Army Community Service at DSN 366-6804 or +32(0)65-32-6804.

SAVE THE DATE: ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH OBSERVANCE

AFNorth Battalion and the Benelux Equal Opportunity Office will host a special event in honor of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May. This year's theme is "Unite Our Mission." Come to the SHAPE Chapel on May 20 starting at 11 a.m. to hear Col. Romeo Macalintal, HQ, U.S. NATO SHAPE, speak during a special presentation. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, call the EO Office at DSN 361-5235 or +32(0)68-27-5235.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Military working dogs are important for supporting the garrison's mission of readiness and lethality. U.S. Army Maj. Aimee Hunter, chief of the Benelux Branch Veterinary Services, checked the eyes of Rex, a 9-year-old Belgian Malinois assigned to the 100th MWD detachment, during a semi-annual physical examination on Chièvres Air Base, Belgium, April 24, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Pierre-Etienne Courtejoie)



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NEWS

HOW TO CELEBRATE KING'S DAY IN THE NETHERLANDS ON APRIL 27

The Netherlands will host King's Day celebrations on April 27. From the largest cities down to the smallest villages, the entire country celebrates King Willem Alexander's birthday. There are street markets everywhere with people selling all kinds of souvenirs and food. Bands are playing on every street corner, every pub is serving beverages outside and people are wearing orange outfits. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



ARMY G-4 OFFERS TIPS TO PREPARE FOR THE PEAK MOVING SEASON

Up to 60,000 household goods shipments for Soldiers, civilians and family members are expected to be moved this summer, and U.S. Army Logistics, HQDA G-4, is providing some tips to help make your move less stressful. Peak season for Permanent Change of Station begins May 15 and runs through Aug. 31, with the busiest weeks being May 15 through July 4. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

BRUSSELS MILITARY POLICE CELEBRATE MILITARY KIDS

In celebration of Month of the Military Child, the Brussels Military Police met with children during a special visit to the Child Development Center at U.S. Army Garrison Benelux in Brussels April 17. The visit was an opportunity for the children to get a hands-on experience of being a military policeman through fun activities. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



FRANCE HONORS ARMY VETERAN, WORLD WAR II HERO

George Aigen was bestowed the highest honor in France: induction into the French Legion of Honor as a knight, or chevalier, April 11 in Valdosta, Georgia. "More than 70 years ago, George Aigen risked his young life for the freedom of France and Europe," said Louis de Corail, Consul General of France in Atlanta, who presented Aigen with the medal. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

MAY 1: LABOR DAY AND LILY OF THE VALLEY EXPLAINED

In Belgium, Labor Day, sometimes referred to as International Workers' Day, is observed on May 1. Although some people see Labor Day as a time for rest, this day is dedicated to paying tribute to workers and acknowledging their contributions to the Belgian economy. May 1 is also a day for another tradition in Belgium. On Wednesday, many people will give a few springs of lily of the valley to their loved ones as a way to wish them happiness throughout the year. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



UNDERSTANDING AFRICAN SWINE FEVER AND HOW TO PREVENT ITS SPREAD

African swine fever, or ASF, is a highly contagious and deadly viral disease affecting both domestic and wild pigs of all ages. It spreads very quickly and kills most pigs that get it. While ASF cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans and is not a food safety issue, an introduction into the United States would have significant impacts on the U.S. swine industry. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



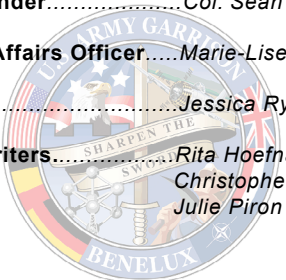
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