

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux News Briefs

TASP Rodeo

The Total Army Sponsorship Program Rodeo will be held Feb. 23 at the Chièvres Community Activity Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participants are invited to visit each station and receive valuable information on sponsorship. Volunteers are needed for this event! For more details, call DSN 366-6192 or DSN 361-5973.

Crossage

The annual event, featuring the golf-like sport, will take place Feb. 14 starting at noon on the streets of Chièvres and surrounding villages. The city of Chièvres will be closed off to all traffic, and no parking will be allowed. To register a team (minimum of four people), call +32 (0)496-876938 or DSN 361-5805. Registration ends Feb. 9. Cost is €33 for a rabout (wooden mallet) and chôtelette (ball) and €5 for insurance.

Tax Center Openings

The tax centers will open Monday at SHAPE, Tuesday at Brussels (appointment only) and Feb. 6 at Schinnen. For more information, see "Inside the Gate" for each location.



Fast, lethal and combat ready!

A paratrooper stands watch as paratroopers from 173rd Airborne Brigade, 173rd Brigade Support Battalion and 54th Brigade Engineer Battalion - Airborne, conduct an airborne insertion onto Juliet Drop Zone in northern Italy, Jan. 18, 2018. It was less than a minute from exiting the C-130 until the paratroopers were on the ground and ready for combat, which shows the Army's emphasis on soldier lethality and readiness. (U.S. Army photo by Lt. Col. John Hall).

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Seven Soldiers will compete in bobsled, luge in 2018 Winter Olympics

By Robert Dozier
IMCOM Public Affairs

Seven Soldiers will be among the other athletes representing the United States Feb. 9 to 25, in the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

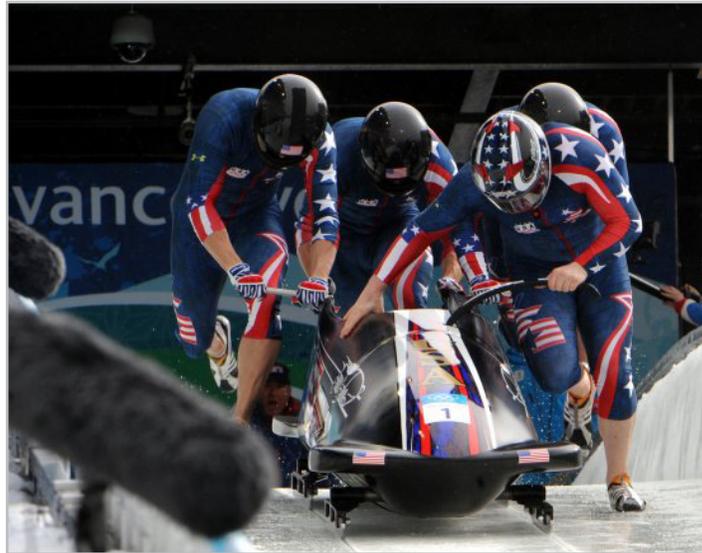
Returning in bobsled will be 2010 Olympic Gold Medalist Sgt. Justin Olsen from San Antonio, Texas; 2014 Olympic Bronze Medalist Capt. Chris Fogt from Alpine, Utah; and 2010 and 2014 Olympic team member Sgt. Nick Cunningham from Monterey, California, who are all part of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command's World Class Athlete Program or WCAP. Olsen and Cunningham are members of the New York National Guard. They will be joined by Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Weber, of the 10th Special Forces, from Pueblo West, Colorado.

Sgt. Emily Sweeney from Suffield, Connecticut, and Sgt. Taylor Morris from South Jordan, Utah, will compete in singles luge, along with Sgt. Matthew Mortensen from Huntington Station, New York, who is competing in the doubles luge event. They are also Soldier-athletes in WCAP who have made the U.S. Olympic Team.

The Soldiers' participation in the Olympic Games is a testament to their enduring resilience and the Army's commitment to teamwork, determination and perseverance, and the nation encourages the world to follow and share their progress on social media using #SoldierOlympians.

Opening ceremonies for the Olympic Games are scheduled for Feb. 9, and luge events run Feb. 10 to 15. Bobsled competitions are scheduled to run Feb. 18 to 24, all to be broadcast by the National Broadcasting Company through NBC News and NBC Sports.

WCAP is composed of national and international caliber Soldiers who have been recognized in their sport, and who maximize and embody high performance agility, mental preparedness and physical strength. These Soldier-Olympians



Former U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program bobsledder Steven Holcomb (front right) leads "The Night Train" team of Sgt. Justin Olsen, Steve Mesler and Curtis Tomasevicz to a start time of 4.77 seconds in the third heat of the Olympic four-man bobsled event in the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. Olsen, along with six other Soldiers, will represent Team USA in the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Hipps)

connect Americans with the Army and show that they are more than just war-fighters.

Other Soldiers are in contention to coach these Olympians on Team USA.

More information on these coaches and athletes can be found at www.ArmyMWR.com/Olympic and on social media at www.Facebook.com/FamilyMWR and www.Twitter.com/FamilyMWR. ♦

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Soldier lethality, mobile networks key for Army future readiness, chief of staff says

By David Vergun

Army News Service

Readiness in the short term is not good enough, said Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, during an Association of the U.S. Army breakfast Jan. 17 in Washington, D.C.

"We mortgage our future if we don't prepare for future readiness," he said.

Readiness for the future means readiness for future warfare, which may involve employing ground robots, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and possibly quantum computing to improve networks and increase decision-making capabilities, Milley said.

In fact, the entire character of warfare is changing, he said.

It would be a "grave strategic mistake," he continued, to ignore those changes and just sit idly by as near-peer adversaries embrace those disruptive technologies.

One Army priority for future readiness is Soldier lethality, Milley noted.

An example of Soldier lethality, he said, would be designing a rifle that can fire much longer distances and with greater accuracy than current models.

Army researchers and industry are right now developing this capability, he said. That effort involves, among other things, new types of ammunition, better optics and improved materials that are more suited to deal with increased chamber pressure.

Also critical to future readiness and mission command is building a mobile, reliable, powerful and capable communication system. Milley said he's been particularly critical of current efforts in that respect.

Networks need to be mobile, he said, adding that a lot of work needs to be done in that area.

Milley also reiterated the need for more frequent and more advanced synthetic training capability as a less-costly way for commanders to provide Soldiers with the training repetitions needed to build unit readiness.

While combat training centers are invaluable and remain important venues for validating home-station training, Milley said synthetic training environments at home-station can provide a wider variety of training scenarios than Combat Training Centers can, and can do so with multiple repetitions at reduced cost.

HISTORY AS PROLOGUE

As an example of how important investment in the future can be, Milley called attention to how Army modernization efforts of the 1970s contributed to preparedness nearly two decades later.

At the time, Milley said, the Army made investments in the M-1 Abrams tank, the AH-64 Apache and UH-60 Black



U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley delivers his State of Army address at AUSA's Eisenhower Luncheon, Oct. 10, 2017. Milley delivered another address to an AUSA breakfast on Jan. 17, 2018, about the importance of future readiness. (U.S. Army photo by Daniel Torok)

Hawk helicopters, the M-2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle and the MIM-104 Patriot Missile System. Together, those programs were called "the big five."

At the start of Operation Desert Storm in early 1991, he said, a flight of eight Apache helicopters -- which had been introduced to the Army only about five years earlier -- knocked out key enemy early-warning radar sites in the opening salvos of the conflict, paving the way for Naval and Air Force aerial strikes.

Without investment in the "big five" in the 1970s, the short, 100-hour ground war in Kuwait would not have been possible, Milley said.

Today, the Army faces the same big transition period as it did in the 1970s, he said.

SECURITY FORCE ASSISTANCE BRIGADE

On Feb. 8, the first Security Force Assistance Brigade will be recognized as "fully capable" during a ceremony at Fort Benning, Georgia. That SFAB will later deploy to Afghanistan.

While the Army has done the advise and assist mission for at least a century, Milley said, in the past that mission has always been ad hoc, and has been disruptive to existing force structure.

Now, Milley said, with the new SFAB unit and follow-on SFAB units that will be stood up, the advise and assist mission will finally be institutionalized within the Army. The SFABs, he said, professionalize the mission and don't take away from other units. ◆

The art of diplomacy: Protecting maritime commerce at home and abroad

By Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Runion

U.S. Coast Guard Activities Europe

“La sûreté portuaire n’est pas une destination, c’est un voyage!” “Port Security isn’t a destination, it’s a journey.”

That was my favorite saying when I was working with foreign officials as a Coast Guard International Port Security Liaison Officer or IPSLO. It was simple, but it got the point across: security isn’t something we can accomplish just once. It’s something we have to continue to work towards.

For me, it was also a reminder that our relationships with our foreign counterparts are something that we have to continually foster. As an IPSLO based in the Netherlands, my portfolio of countries was largely focused on the Atlantic coast of central Africa: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Gabon, and Angola, to name a few. The mission my colleagues and I were tasked with seems simple on the surface: to visit commercial port facilities and evaluate their compliance with the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code in order to better gauge the risks posed by ships sailing from those ports to the U.S. In return, we invited foreign officials to visit U.S. port facilities and learn how the Coast Guard enforces security standards at home. Although my fellow IPSLOs and I were from many Coast Guard backgrounds -- Cutters, Aviation, Intel, & Prevention -- we were all ambassadors for port security, for the Coast Guard, and for the United States. In order to conduct our mission, we had to be invited to visit each country and each port. In order to effect change, we had to convince our foreign counterparts of the value of our mission.

How do we convince without exerting force? How do people from very different backgrounds find common ground? This is at the heart of why I decided to become a government major at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. As an IPSLO, I truly enjoyed the opportunity to practice that art of diplomacy, and accomplish the Coast Guard’s mission of protecting maritime commerce at home and abroad.

During more than 40 trips to Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe, I learned the important role that history, language and culture play in these national-level relationships. Whether we liked it or not, we were the physical embodiment of the U.S. wherever we went -- the good, the bad, and the ugly. In some countries, we are remembered as the first nation to recognize their independence. In others, we had to delicately avoid reminding our counterparts that our nation had backed the losing side in their civil war. In some countries we were just one of many American delegations, whereas in others we were the only Americans to regularly visit entire regions, and our small delegations of two or three



Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Runion (front center), worked as an international port security liaison officer, or IPSLO, while stationed in the Netherlands. Her portfolio was largely focused on the Atlantic coast of central Africa, where she practiced the art of diplomacy when working with different port facility managers and personnel. (U.S. Coast Guard photo provided by Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Runion)

were perceived as speaking for the entire U.S. government.

Diplomacy, at its heart, is all about trust. One of my proudest moments as an IPSLO was when one African delegation that I had brought to Marine Safety Unit, or MSU, Savannah realized that I had kept my word about being as open about our security practices as they had about theirs. In fact, they told me beforehand that they expected me to disappoint them. It was almost an instantaneous change, as they sat at a table and listened to personnel from the MSU answer their questions candidly. It was wonderful to watch, as Coast Guard personnel explained their qualification process and training, as well as the policies and procedures for enforcing port security at home. Even though the translator struggled with some of the conversation, we had finally found ourselves on the same team, and speaking the same language of security.

Because most of the countries in my portfolio were francophone (French-speaking), I was very fortunate to have enough language skills to enable me to carry on a conversation without having to rely on a translator. True fluency in a foreign language takes years of constant practice, but it adds immense value if you can get to that point. Even if you don’t speak the local language, however, the ability to say just a few words in the national language or local dialect does wonders for breaking-down barriers and building trust. On one of my trips to Republic of the Congo, I watched Stephanie Sullivan, the

The art of diplomacy, continued from page 4

U.S. Ambassador to the Congo, conduct an interview on our visit with the national press. She conducted it in Lingala, a native Congolese language. I am sure her accent and grammar were not perfect, but the effect on the reporters, government officials and passers-by was instantaneous. By taking a risk and speaking the language spoken by most Congolese people at home, instead of English or French, she had instantly earned the trust and respect of her Congolese counterparts.

In my career as a cutterman, I also had many opportunities to build international partnerships. In 2008, while on temporary duty to CGC MORGENTHAU during a Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training deployment with the U.S. Navy, I was given the chance to teach a class on Search and Rescue to the Bruneian military personnel. In turn, I sat in awe and listened to their presentation on their response to the massive tsunami that struck their neighbor, Indonesia, in 2007. Earlier this year, my current cutter, CGC ACTIVE, had the opportunity to work with ships from both the Mexican and Canadian navies. We hosted several of their personnel onboard for a day, and we sent our crewmembers to sail with them. It was a great way to remind ourselves that we are all on the same team against the Transnational Organized Crime networks that are smuggling narcotics and de-stabilizing Mexico and her southern neighbors. Exercises like this, though simple in concept, are great opportunities to build trust and find common ground that will in the long term help to support and sustain our national-level policies and goals.

Because of the Coast Guard's size and mission set, our service has more in common with most of the world's navies than the U.S. Navy does. Our Navy is the most powerful in the world, so while they are a distinct advantage in a fight, their size and power can put us at a disadvantage when trying to relate to allies and potential allies. The U.S. Coast Guard, on the other hand, has an advantage when attempting to build ties without appearing overbearing or intimidating. We are a small service with extensive missions, limited means and an aging fleet, and so we struggle with many of the same challenges as our foreign partners. Like many of our foreign naval counterparts, we also hold dual military and law enforcement roles, and struggle to find the right



Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Runion (front center) is seen here in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Matadi, at the commercial port facility SOCOPE (La Société Congolaise de Pêche), a privately-owned frozen fish importing facility. As an international port security liaison officer, she had just completed a tour of the facility to observe their security practices. (U.S. Coast Guard photo provided by Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Runion)

balance between the two. U.S. Coast Guard representatives at U.S. Africa Command in Germany, U.S. Navy 6th Fleet in Italy, and at a wide array of U.S. Embassies in countries ranging from South Korea to Liberia to Costa Rica give the Coast Guard a voice in U.S. policy abroad. This voice can aid our service and our nation in building law enforcement partnerships, helping foreign nations to develop policy and procedures for fisheries management, port security, aids to navigation, and myriad other missions.

I joined the Coast Guard to see the world. I usually get a few chuckles when I tell people that, but it's actually true. As a government major, I was given a solid base of international policy, history and language that has helped me to further the Coast Guard's goals and forge partnerships abroad. As a cutterman and an IPSLO, I've had the opportunity to carry-out Coast Guard missions in more than 35 countries and five continents. I've worked with military and civilian counterparts in the mission to convince and find common ground in order to adapt and accomplish our mutual goals. But it's not about the destination, it's about the journey. ♦



KEEPING YOU CONNECTED
The Official Website of the American Forces Network Benelux
Listen to AFN: Brussels : 101.7 FM | Chièvres : 107.9 FM
 SHAPE : 106.5 | Tri-Border community : 99.7 and 96.9 FM
AFN BENELUX 360 Internet Radio <http://benelux.afneurope.net>

ALL COMMUNITIES

Through Jan. 31

- **U.S. Army Digital Photography Contest** - Calling all photography enthusiasts! Submit your photos for a chance to win cash prizes. For contest rules and submissions, visit www.armymwr.com/digitalphoto.

Through Feb. 28

- **American Legion Post BE02 Scholarship: Boys State/Girls State** - The American Legion Post BE02 and the American Legion Auxiliary would like to announce their sponsorship of the 2018 Boys State and Girls State programs. The students in Boys State/Girls State will be flown to Maryland to participate in the week long program during the third week of June 2018. All expenses will be paid by American Legion Post BE02. Boys State and Girls State are summer leadership and citizenship programs sponsored by the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary for high school juniors. For further information and a registration form, please contact Post BE02 representatives at flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com. The deadline for submission for the registration form is Feb. 28.
- **American Legion Post BE02 Scholarship: Eagle Scout of the Year** - Scholarships are awarded for the Eagle Scout of the year at the Post and Department levels. The national scholarship is awarded to the Eagle Scout who is selected "The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year." The winner is eligible to receive a \$10,000 scholarship to be awarded over a four-year period. Three additional scholarships of \$2,500 each are also awarded. For further information and a registration form, please contact Post BE02 representatives at flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com. The deadline for submission for the registration form is Feb. 28.



The following are VTC-projected classes. 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)2-717-9783
- For Schinnen: DSN 360-7500 or +31(0)46-4437500

Jan. 31 and Feb. 28

- **Blended Retirement System** - Held from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. This training offers a complete review of the BRS along with the Thrift Savings Plan component and other relevant points, such as the incentive bonus and the lump-sum options as well as the flexibility offered with this new program.

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

See also above in "All Communities."

Open Enrollment for Cub Scout Pack 457

- Cub Scout Pack 457 is now registering girls into their Scouting program and also launching a Lions pilot program for all kindergartners. All Brussels community families are invited to sign up their children, boys age 5 (Kindergarten) to 10 years old (6th grade) and girls age 5 (Kindergarten) to 9 years old (5th grade) for the Cub Scouts. Scheduled activities are planned throughout the year in and around Brussels. Contact the pack recruiting coordinator at CubScoutPack457Brussels@gmail.com for more information.

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. Karaoke Night will start at 6 p.m. U.S. Military, NATO, U.S. Embassy and mission cardholders are welcomed. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or +32 (0)2-7179822.

Jan. 26

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

Starting Jan. 30

- **Tax Assistance Services** - The Northern Law Center will provide U.S. federal and state income tax assistance to eligible clients on Tuesdays in Building 4, 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, visit www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/org-legal.html.

Feb. 2

- **Line Dancing** - Put on your boots, grab your friends and have some fun at the 3 Star Recreation Center every first and third Friday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or +32 (0)2-7179822.

Feb. 4

- **The "Big Game" Party Registration** - Watch Super Bowl LII at the 3 Star Recreation Center on Feb. 4! Festivities start at 7 p.m. with a buffet including delicious finger foods. The cost is \$10 per person plus drinks. **Registration is required by Jan. 29.** To register, email reservations3star@yahoo.com. For more details, call DSN 368-9822 or +32 (0)2-7179822.

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

See also page 6 in "All Communities."

Every Monday

- **Meditation Mondays** - Begin the week by slowing down, getting centered and quieting your mind at the Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program Lounge from noon to 1 p.m. For more information, contact +31 (0)46-4437500 or DSN 360-7500.

Feb. 2

- **New Year, New You! Information, Employment & Job Fair** - Get a jumpstart on New Year's commitments by learning about employment, volunteer and educational opportunities in the Tri-Border area. The fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the multipurpose room of Bldg. 298 at Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base. This event is free and includes the following mini-seminars: "Hot Jobs. Learn The Steps To Federal Employment" from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., "I Got A New Attitude: A Guide to Changing Behavior" from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., "Nutrition 101: A Survival Guide to Staying Healthy" from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., and "Cooking On A Dime When You Ain't Got 'Thyme'" from 1:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, call DSN 458-6015 or +49(0)2451-637291.

Feb. 6

- **Tax Assistance Office Grand Opening** - The Netherlands Law Center will be open for free federal and state income tax preparation on Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call DSN 360-7688 or +31 (0)46-4437688.

Feb. 12, 14 and 16

- **Teen Babysitting Course Registration** - Become American Red Cross Certified in Pediatric CPR & First Aid! This class will meet at the Youth Center (Bldg H-602) at JFC Brunssum from Feb. 12, 14 and 16 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$15. Participants must be age 12 or older and registered with Child, Youth and School Services. **Registration ends Feb. 7.** For more details, call DSN 606-244-3121/2023 or +31 (0)45-5263121 or +31 (0) 45-5262023.



Feb. 13-16

- **CYS Carnival Camp** - Have fun at the School Age Center with this carnival-themed camp. The camp is open to Child, Youth and School Services children from Kindergarten to fifth grade. Camp fees may apply. Register at Parent Central Services on JFC Brunssum Bldg. H-602. For more information, call DSN 606-244-3121/2023 or +31 (0)45526-3121/2023.

Feb. 14

- **Hearts of Love 5K Run/Walk** - Bring your sweetheart to this Valentine's Day event! The run/walk starts at the Schinnen Fitness Center at 9 a.m. Entry is free. Refreshments will be available. For more information call DSN 360-7561 or +31 (0)46-4437561.
- **LEGO® Day** - Set your imagination loose and explore the wonderful world of Lego® at the JFC HQ Brunssum Library from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call DSN 606-2442469 or +31 (0)45-5262469.

Feb. 24 - Mar. 17

- **UMUC Travel and Learn: Dublin Class** - Discover the literary, historical and cultural center of Ireland while earning three college credits in this field study course at University of Maryland University College, or UMUC. The course dates are Feb. 24 to Mar. 17. The class meets on-site in Dublin from Mar. 3 to 10. **Registration ends Feb. 12.** For more information, call DSN 360-7620 or +31 (0)46-4437620 or email schinnen-europe@umuc.edu.

SHAPE/CHIÈVRES COMMUNITY

See also page 6 in "All Communities"

AAFES Announcements

- **Instant Coffee** - The Cofeo instant coffee machine is now available at the Chièvres Exchange Mall. The machine serves different kinds of coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Euros, debit and credit cards are accepted.

Jan. 26

- **Escape the Room "Funland Edition"** - Escape from this circus-themed room of mystery at the Middle School/ Teen Center on SHAPE from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. This event is open to all Child, Youth and School Services youth in grades 9 to 12. Dinner will be served. To register, call DSN 366-6839 or +32 (0)65-326839.

Starting Jan. 29

- **Tax Center** - 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 5 p.m. The grand opening will be held Jan. 29 at 3 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call DSN 423-4868 or +32 (0)65-444868. Visit www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/org-legal.html for more information.

Jan. 30 and Feb. 6

- **SHAPE International Marching Team Meeting for Nijmegen Marches** - The Nijmegen Marches are a four-day event, scheduled July 16 to 20, in the Netherlands where participants can walk up to 100 miles. You can participate in the event by joining the SHAPE International Marching Team. Information and registration meetings will be held Jan. 30 at 5:30 p.m. and Feb. 6 at 1 p.m. in SHAPE Bldg. 312. For more information, email imtshape@gmail.com or call DSN 423-4760 or +32(0)65-444760.

Feb. 1

- **Interview Preparedness** - Army Community Service can show you how to prepare for an interview and give you tips to ace that job! This training will be held from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the second floor of SHAPE Bldg. 318. For more information, call DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)65-326824.

Starting Feb. 6

- **Eight Nights of Harry Potter** - Starting at 6 p.m. on select Tuesdays, join the community for a special outreach event while watching Harry Potter films at the SHAPE Cinema. Movies are €2 per person. More dates will be announced soon.

Feb. 12-13

- **Host Nation Orientation** - Army Community Service is inviting all incoming service members, civilians and their family members to participate in Host Nation Orientation in SHAPE Bldg. 318 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration is required. Call DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)65-326824.

Feb. 12-16

- **Teen Babysitting Course** - During this class, participants will earn their pediatric CPR and basic first aid certification as well as receive a Magic Babysitter's Bag. Class hours are 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. from Feb. 12 to 16. All sessions must be attended to receive certification. This class is open to youth age 12 and older (grades 6 to 12) and registered with Child, Youth and School Services. Cost is \$25, and **registration ends Feb. 7**. For more information or to reserve your spot, stop by Parent Central Services (SHAPE Bldg. 503) or call DSN 366-6839/6797 or +32(0)65-326839/6797.
- **SAC Carnival Break** - This carnival-themed camp is open to children in Kindergarten to fifth grade registered in Child, Youth and School Services. The camp is from Feb. 12 to 16 on SHAPE. **Registration ends Feb. 2**. Cost is based on total family income. For more information or to reserve your spot, stop by Parent Central Services (SHAPE Bldg. 503) or call DSN 366-6839/6797 or +32(0)65-326839/6797.

Feb. 19-Mar. 9

- **CYS Sports Spring Soccer Registration** - The season will last from April through June. The cost is \$45 for ages 6 to 12 and \$25 for ages 3 to 5. Child, Youth and School Services registration and health assessments are required for participants. For more information, stop by Parent Central Services (SHAPE Bldg. 503) or call DSN 366-6839/6797 or +32(0)65-326839/6797.



Feb. 23

- **Total Army Sponsorship Program Rodeo** - Held in the Chièvres Community Activity Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., participants are invited to visit each station and receive valuable information on sponsorship. Volunteers are needed for this event! For more information, call DSN 366-6192 or DSN 361-5973.

UPCOMING ORGANIZED TRIPS & TOURS

SHAPE Trips & Tours

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

- Belgian Beer Tour in Antwerp, **Feb. 3**
- Malta, **Feb. 8-12**
- The Hague, Netherlands, **Feb. 10**
- Rosenmontag Carnival in Cologne, **Feb. 12**
- Valentine's Dinner Cruise on the Seine in Paris, **Feb. 17**
- Cooking Class in Lille (or Lille only), **Feb. 24**
- Operation Market Garden "A Bridge Too Far" in Arnhem, **Mar. 3**
- Hamburg, Germany, **Mar. 10-11**
- Bad Münstereifel, Germany, **Mar. 17**

- Northern Italy, **Apr. 3-12**
- London (with optional musical Dreamgirls), **Apr. 14**
- Gouda & Keukenhof Gardens, **Apr. 21**
- Reims with Champagne, **Apr. 28**
- Rhine Dinner Cruise with Fireworks, **May 5**

Schinnen Trips & Tours

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

- Luxembourg, **Feb. 17**
- Paris, **Mar. 17**
- Family Day Trout Fishing, **Apr. 7**
- Keukenhof Gardens, **Apr. 21**
- Weekend Trip to Normandy, France, **Jul. 20-23**

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: Be patient if you are driving on Boulevard de la Woluwe (R22). Traffic is reduced to one lane. Road construction is behind schedule. The expected completion date is yet to be determined.



Brussels: Renovation of the Reyers tunnels is in progress in the center of Brussels. You can expect deviations, or detours, and road congestion near the tunnels. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.



Ath-Hacquegnies (A8): There is still road construction on E429 (A8) between Ath and Hacquegnies, in the direction of Tournai. Traffic is reduced to one lane. Work is scheduled to be completed by Jan. 31.



Tubize-Enghien (A8): Pay attention if you are driving from Brussels. There is still road congestion on E429 (A8) between Tubize and Enghien, in the direction of Tournai. Road construction has been interrupted due to bad weather and will resume in the spring. The speed of traffic is reduced to 70 km/h.



Tournai-Mons (E42): Work on the bridge started Nov. 13 in Bernissart and is expected to last two years. Traffic is reduced to one lane in the direction of Mons.



Andenne/Daussoux (E42/A15): The three-way yard project between Andenne and Daussoux 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.list.pao@mail.mil.



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

Through Feb. 25

- **Exhibition in Mons: David LaChapelle. After the Deluge** - The Beaux-Arts Mons, or BAM, is hosting, for the first time in Belgium, a major exhibition dedicated to the American photographer and director David LaChapelle. Held on Rue Neuve, 8. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, visit www.polemuseal.mons.be/en or call +32 (0)65-405325. Entry is €9. Free entry on every first Sunday of the month.

Jan. 27

- **Concert in Soignies** - Held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Collégiale Saint Vincent, this concert features bagpipes, hunting horns and a marching band. Entry is €5.

Jan. 27-28

- **Flea Market in Ronquières** - Held on Rue Rosemont featuring 100 booths from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jan. 28

- **Volksmarch in Casteau for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** Departs Chaussée de Bruxelles, 184 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Ronquières for 5, 10 or 20 km** Departs Rue Jules Dekeyn, 29 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Grandglise/Beloeil for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs Rue de la Sablière, 12 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea Market in Auderghem** - Held on Avenue Herrmann Debroux featuring 150 booths from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Jan. 31 - Feb. 4

- **Tournai Jazz Festival** - There will be 21 shows, 160 musicians, master classes, workshops, activities for children and more. Held at Halle Aux Draps on the square. Open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 6:30 p.m., Saturday at 3 p.m., and Sunday at 11:30 a.m. The NATO Jazz Orchestra will perform Sunday at 4:15 p.m. Entry is €12 to €40, and free on Sunday. For more details, call +32 (0)69-841737 or email contact@tournaijazz.be.

Feb. 2-4

- **Sports Fair 2018 in Brussels Expo** - This is the largest sports fair in Belgium. The expo features 200 demonstrations and initiations by professionals, stands with known and new sports brands, the latest trends in sports materials, food supplements, coaches, trainers and more. Open Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €12 and free for children.

Feb. 4

- **Super Bowl Party at the Hard Rock Cafe** - Watch the big game at the Brussels location starting at 11 p.m. "Big Game" meal and drink packages are available for purchase. Reservations are recommended. Call +32(0)2-5461660.



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

Jan. 27

- **Culemborg Blues Night** - Held at Event Center Culemborg on Beesdseweg in Culemborg (NL). Doors open at 8 p.m. Entry is €15. For more information, visit www.culemborgblues.nl.

Jan. 27-28

- **Western Experience** - Held at Brabanthallen in Den Bosch (NL), this is the largest country and western festival in Europe. The event features country music, western riding, line dancing, American Wheels Show and a large western market with over 100 stands. Entry is €20. Open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Jan. 27-Feb. 4

- **Wonen 2018 (BE)** - This is the Flanders' largest home and living fair, and it is held at Nekkerhal Brussels North on Plattebeekstraat 1 in Mechelen (BE). The fair has many fun ideas for interior and exterior design projects and the newest trends in building and renovating. Entry is €10. The fair is open on Monday to Thursday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Through Jan. 28

- **Art & Antique Fair** - Held at Grote Kerk in the center of the historic fortified city Naarden (NL), this is a very exclusive fair with furniture, silver, jewelry, paintings, china, clocks and more. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Entry is €16.50, and free for youth age 13 and younger.

Jan. 28

- **Hippie Market** - A modern Hippie Market is held from noon to 6 p.m. at WesterUnie & Westerliefde on Klönneplein 4-6 in Amsterdam. Entry is €2.50, and free for children.
- **Rhein Antik (GE)** - This is a large indoor antique fair held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle on Hohenzollernstraße 15 in Mönchengladbach (GE). Entry is €3.

Through Jan. 31

- **Winter Efteling** - Held at Efteling Amusement & Fairy Tale Park in Kaatsheuvel on Europalaan near Tilburg (NL). Open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and weekends from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Entry is €40.

Feb. 2-4

- **Little Italy Fair: The Taste of Italy** - Held at WesterUnie & Westerliefde on Klönneplein 4-6 in Amsterdam. There will be special food tastings, wines, holiday specials and more. Entry is €15, and free for children age 11 and younger. Open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.