

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux News Briefs

Dogs' Day Out

MWR is in need of volunteers to assist with the annual Dogs' Day Out event Aug. 26 in the SHAPE Fest Tent. Call DSN 361-5436 or +32 (0)68-275436 for more information.

Survey

U.S. Army Public Health Center wants to hear from you! Take the Community Strengths and Themes Assessment Tool here: <https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/Survey/se.ashx?s=251137455DDCC5A4> Your participation in this survey is voluntary, and your responses will remain anonymous.

Passport Services

USAG Benelux Passport Agent services in Brussels will be unavailable through Aug. 19. Passport services will resume on Aug. 20 by appointment only. For passport services during this time, you may contact the Brussels U.S. Embassy at <https://be.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/passports/>

Ryanair Strike

Your Ryanair flight could be cancelled because of a strike. Unions representing cabin crews in Spain, Portugal and Belgium will strike for two days between July 25 and 26.



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Enjoy the summer in the Benelux!

The Grand Large in Mons is one of many places to enjoy the summer in the Benelux. (U.S. Army photo by Christophe Morel)

Army Combat Fitness Test set to become new PT test of record in late 2020

By Sean Kimmons
Army News Service

Army senior leaders have approved a new strenuous fitness test designed to better prepare Soldiers for combat tasks, reduce injuries and lead to ample cost savings across the service.

The six-event readiness assessment, called the Army Combat Fitness Test, is intended to replace the current three-event Army Physical Fitness Test, which has been around since 1980.

Beginning October 2020, all Soldiers will be required to take the new gender- and age-neutral test. Before that, field testing set to begin this October will allow the Army to refine the test, with initial plans for up to 40,000 Soldiers from all three components to see it.

"The Army Combat Fitness Test will ignite a generational, cultural change in Army fitness and become a cornerstone of individual Soldier combat readiness," said Maj. Gen. Malcolm Frost, commander of the Army's Center of Initial Military Training. "It will reduce attrition and it will reduce musculoskeletal injuries and actually save, in the long run, the Army a heck of a lot of money."

At least six years of significant research went into the test's development as researchers looked at what Soldiers must do fitness-wise for combat.

"Throughout that research and testing, the goal was to provide our leaders with a tough, realistic, field-expedient assessment of the physical component of their Soldiers' individual readiness," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey. "The ACFT is scientifically-validated and will help better prepare our Soldiers to deploy, fight, and win on any future battlefield."

Roughly 2,000 Soldiers have already taken the test, previously called the Army Combat Readiness Test. They also provided feedback as part of the Army Training and Doctrine Command and Forces Command pilots that began last year at several installations.

"The current PT test is only a 40 percent predictor of success for performing in combat and executing warrior tasks and battle drills," Frost said. "This test is approximately an 80 percent predictor of performing based on our ability to test the physical components of combat fitness."



Sgt. Bruna Galarza demonstrates the deadlift event during a pilot for the Army Combat Fitness Test, a six-event assessment designed to reduce injuries and replace the current Army Physical Fitness Test. (U.S. Army photo by Sean Kimmons)

SIX EVENTS

While the ACFT still keeps the 2-mile run as its final event, it introduces five others to provide a broad measurement of a Soldier's physical fitness. The events are completed in order and can take anywhere from 45 to 55 minutes for a Soldier to finish.

- Strength deadlift: With a proposed weight range of 120 to 420 pounds, the deadlift event is similar to the one found in the Occupational Physical Assessment Test, or OPAT, which is given to new recruits to assess lower-body strength before they are placed into a best-fit career field. The ACFT will require Soldiers to perform a three-repetition maximum deadlift (only one in OPAT) and the weights will be increased. The event replicates picking up ammunition boxes, a wounded battle buddy, supplies or other heavy equipment.
- Standing power throw: Soldiers toss a 10-pound ball backward as far as possible to test muscular explosive power that may be needed to lift themselves or a fellow Soldier up over an obstacle or to move rapidly across uneven terrain.

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

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Army Combat Fitness test, Continued from page 2

- Hand-release pushups: In this event, Soldiers start in the prone position and do a traditional pushup, but when at the down position they release their hands and arms from contact with the ground and then reset to do another pushup. This allows for additional upper body muscles to be exercised.
- Sprint/drag/carry: As they dash 25 meters five times up and down a lane, Soldiers will perform sprints, drag a sled weighing 90 pounds, and then hand-carry two 40-pound kettlebell weights. This can simulate pulling a battle buddy out of harm's way, moving quickly to take cover, or carrying ammunition to a fighting position or vehicle.
- Leg tuck: Similar to a pullup, Soldiers lift their legs up and down to touch their knees/thighs to their elbows as many times as they can. This exercise strengthens the core muscles since it doubles the amount of force required compared to a traditional situp.
- 2-mile run: Same event as on the current test. In the ACFT, run scores are expected to be a bit slower due to all of the other strenuous activity.

The ACFT gauges Soldiers on the 10 components of physical fitness: muscular strength and endurance, power, speed, agility, aerobic endurance, balance, flexibility, coordination and reaction time. The current test only measures two: muscular and aerobic endurance.

TEST SCORING

The vast majority of policies with the APFT will likely be carried over to the new test. Scoring could be similar with 100 points for each event for a maximum of 600. Minimum scores, however, may change depending on a Soldier's military occupational specialty. Soldiers in more physically demanding jobs may see tougher minimums, similar to how OPAT evaluates new recruits.

"The more physically challenging your MOS, the more you'll be required to do at the minimum levels," said Michael McGurk, director of research and analysis at CIMT.

Another difference is that there are no alternate events planned for this test, he said.

Soldiers will still get adequate time to rehabilitate from an injury. But under a new "deploy-or-be-removed" policy, Defense Secretary James Mattis said in February that troops who are non-deployable for more than 12 months will be processed for administrative separation or referred to the disability evaluation system.

"Generally speaking, somebody who has a long-term permanent profile that precludes taking a fitness test may not be retainable for duty in the Army," McGurk said.

As part of its culture change, the Army is building a Holistic Health and Fitness System to produce healthier and fitter Soldiers. The new test is one piece of the system, in addition to the OPAT, the improvement of fitness centers, and healthier options at chow halls.

Army researchers studied foreign militaries that have rolled out similar holistic programs and found them to be highly successful. The Australian army, for instance, introduced it to their basic training and saw a roughly 30 percent

reduction in injuries.

"Do I know we're going to have a 25-30 percent reduction? No, but I certainly hope we will," McGurk said. "We think [the test is] well worth it and it's the right thing to do for Soldiers in any case."

Feedback from Soldiers so far has also been overwhelmingly positive.

"As we all know, physical fitness training can become rather monotonous if people train the same way," McGurk said. "So, a lot of them saw this as a great change and how it required them to use different muscles."

While some Soldiers may disagree with replacing the current test, McGurk said that fitness has come a long way from 40 years ago when the APFT was first developed.

"In 1980, running shoes were relatively a new invention," he said. "The Army was still running in boots for the PT test back then. Change is difficult, but we're an Army that adapts well to change."

ARMY VISION

In early June, senior leaders outlined what the Army should focus on over the next decade to retain overmatch against potential adversaries. The 2028 vision statement, signed by the Army's secretary and chief of staff, calls for modernized equipment, particularly the development of autonomous systems. It also stresses the need for physically fit and mentally tough Soldiers to fight and win in high-intensity conflict.

"Technology is going to be dominant and we need a lot of things that we're looking at through modernization," Frost said. "In the end, you still need the United States Army



Pfc. Alex Colliver, foreground, pulls a 90-pound sled 50 meters that simulates the strength needed in pulling a battle buddy out of harm's way during a pilot for the Army Combat Fitness Test, a six-event assessment designed to reduce injuries and replace the current Army Physical Fitness Test. (U.S. Army photo by Sean Kimmons)

Soldier to be able to seize and hold terrain."

The ACFT is a foundational method, leaders believe, that the Army can use to start a new era of fitness and obtain Soldier overmatch in combat.

"The current leadership ... has really coalesced and understands the importance of fitness itself and the importance of the PT test to drive that change in culture," Frost said. "They've made the decision and we're ready to execute." ♦

Exchange Launches New Recruiting Website at ApplyMyExchange.com

By Conner Hammett
Army & Air Force Exchange Service

Those looking to serve Warfighters and their families can explore meaningful career opportunities with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service at its newly redesigned ApplyMyExchange.com employment website.

The online resource allows Veterans, military family members, civilians and current Exchange team members to apply for positions around the world with the Department of Defense's largest retailer.

New features include specialized application pages for Veterans and military spouses; optimization for PCs, laptops, tablets and mobile devices; and videos that illustrate the Exchange's mission to improve the lives of Soldiers, Airmen and their families.

"ApplyMyExchange.com's new-and-improved applicant experience makes it easier than ever to find opportunities to serve the best customers in the world," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Luis Reyes, the Exchange's senior enlisted advisor. "If you're passionate about serving those who serve, visit ApplyMyExchange.com today."

A major employer of Veterans and military family members, the Exchange recently reaffirmed its commitment to hire 50,000 Veterans and military spouses worldwide by 2020. Since 2010, the Exchange has hired more than 1,200 Wounded Warriors.

The Exchange further supports military-affiliated employees through its associate transfer program, which helps military spouses and dependents maintain their Exchange careers when transferring to a new duty station. The

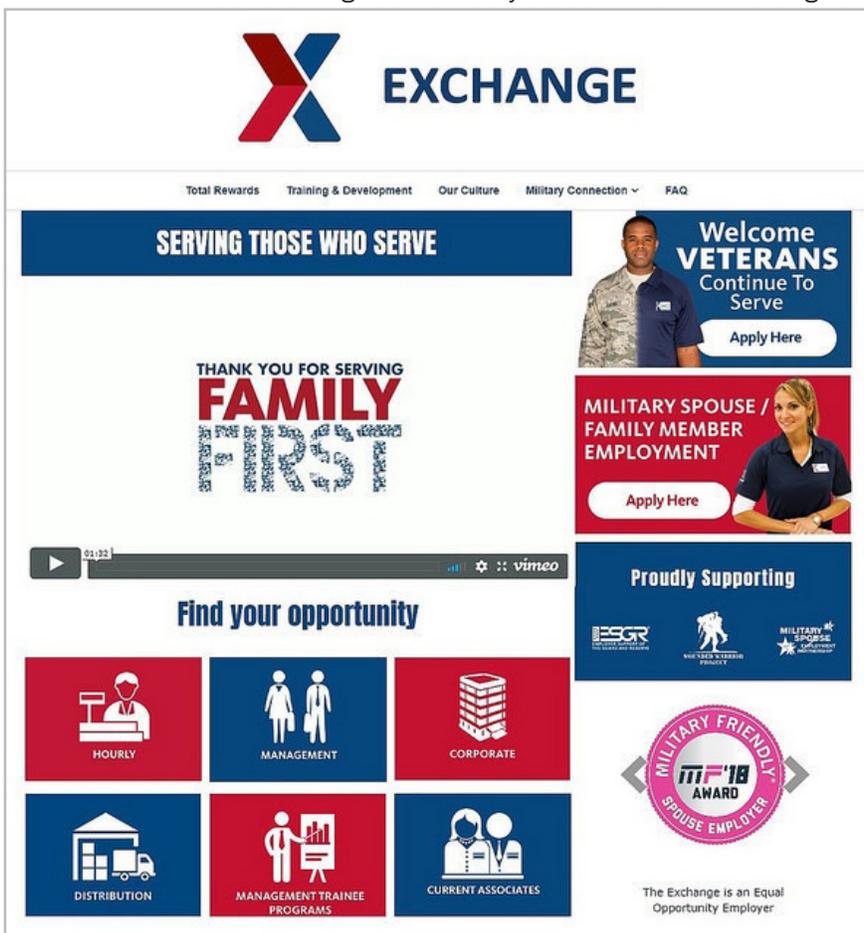
years in a row. The organization was also named a 2018 Top 10 Military Friendly Employer and top Military Spouse Friendly Employer by Victory Media, publisher of G.I. Jobs and Military Spouse magazine.

Exchange associates enjoy comprehensive medical and dental plans, competitive retirement and 401(k) plans, life insurance, accrual of sick and vacation leave starting on the first day of employment, and more.

Facebook Friendly Version: Those looking to serve Warfighters and their families can explore meaningful career opportunities with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service at its newly redesigned ApplyMyExchange.com. Read more: <https://bit.ly/2m4grga>.

Since 1895, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (Exchange) has gone where Soldiers, Airmen and their families go to improve the quality of their lives by providing valued goods and services at exclusive military pricing. The Exchange is the 61st-largest retailer in the United States. Its earnings provided \$2.4 billion in dividends to

support military morale, welfare and recreation programs over the last 10 years. The Exchange is a non-appropriated fund entity of the Department of Defense and is directed by a Board of Directors. To find out more about the Exchange history and mission, visit <http://www.shopmyexchange.com>. ♦



The Army & Air Force Exchange Service's redesigned employment website at ApplyMyExchange.com includes several new features, including specialized application pages for Veterans and military spouses; optimization for PCs, laptops, tablets and mobile devices; and videos that illustrate the Exchange's mission to improve the lives of Soldiers, Airmen and their families. (Courtesy photo).

Exchange gives preference to honorably discharged Veterans; disabled Veterans; military retirees below the rank of major or its equivalent; and spouses, widows and mothers of deceased and disabled Veterans.

The Exchange has been named a Military Times Best for Vets Employer five

Hot weather: Don't leave children or pets unattended in cars

By USAG Benelux Safety Office

When the thermometer reads 93°F or approximately 33.8°C, the temperature inside a closed car – even with the window cracked – can reach 125°F or approximately 51.6°C in just 20 minutes. In very hot weather, trapped children can suffer a heat stroke, which may lead to permanent disability or death in a matter of minutes. Also leaving pets in a car during hot weather can lead to the death of the animal.

Following these tips will help to prevent heat-related injuries:

- Keep cars locked at all times, even in the garage or driveway.
- Teach children not to play in or around cars.
- Never leave your child in an unattended car, even with the windows down.
- If your child gets locked inside a car and is exhibiting heat-related symptoms, get him out and seek medical attention immediately.
- Use a light-colored covering to shade the seat while your car is parked. Consider using windshield shades in front and back windows.
- Keep the trunk of your car closed, especially when parked in the driveway or near

your house. Children often think trunks are great spots for “Hide & Seek”.

- Keep rear-folding seats closed to prevent children from getting into the trunk.
- Store car keys out of children’s sight and reach.
- Be careful of child-resistant locks. Teach older children how to disable the driver’s door locks if they unintentionally become trapped.
- Contact your auto dealership to get your vehicle retrofitted with an internal

trunk-release mechanism.

- Keep a stuffed animal in the car-seat and when the child is put in the seat place the animal in the front with the driver. Or place your purse, briefcase or cell phone in the back seat as a reminder that you have your child in the car.

For more information, contact the Safety Office at DSN 361-1470/5561 or +32(0)68-271470/5561 for Chièvres and Brussels, or at DSN 360-7242 or +31(0)46-4437242 for Schinnen. ♦



Never leave your child in an unattended car, even with the window down. (Courtesy photo)



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

Government Driver's License

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

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

July 26 and Sept. 13/27

- **Couples Communication** - The class will be from 10 a.m. to noon.

Aug. 9/23

- **Positive Parenting** - Offered by Army Community Service. Learn techniques on how to teach your children 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 Thursday and Friday

- **Community Movie Night** - Enjoy free entertainment at the 3 Star Recreation Center starting at 6:30 p.m. The schedule includes Blockers (R) on July 13. 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.

July Fitness Challenge

- **"Tour de Brussels"** - Challenge yourself like the athletes on the Tour de France by tackling the mileage on indoor exercise bikes (or your own bike). Log in 20 hours at the Fitness Center. For more information, call DSN 368-9667 or +32 (0)2-7179667.

Through August 3

- **Child and Youth Services Fall Soccer Open Enrollment** - The season starts Sept. 20 and ends Nov. 8. Participants must be registered with CYS and have a valid health assessment at the time of enrollment. Cost is \$25 for children age 3 to 5, and \$45 for children age 6 to 15. For more information, call DSN 368-9539 or +32 (0)2-7179539. Volunteer coaches are needed! If interested, please contact CYS Fitness.



July 14-15

- **Watch the World Cup** - Who will win the World Cup this year? You can watch it at the 3 Star Recreation Center! There will be a cash bar and snack food to purchase including nachos, fries, chicken wings and pizza. Admission is free.

July 19

- **3 Star Dinner Special "All You Can Eat Taco Bar"** - Starts at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$11 for adults, \$5 for kids. The alternative kids menu is chicken strips with potato wedges for \$5. Reservations are required by July 17 and can be made at reservations3star@yahoo.com.

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

See also page 6 in "All Communities."

Schinnen MP Desk

- The Schinnen MP Desk can be reached at the following new phone number: DSN 597-4555 and +31 (0)45-5340555.

Operation hours

- **Schinnen Service Station (GAS)** - Effective July 1, the new hours of operation for the Schinnen Gas Station are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and closed Sunday and Monday.

Closures

- **Netherlands Law Center** - The Netherlands Law Center in Schinnen will be closed for USAREUR holidays on the following dates: from July 13 to July 16, and from Aug. 3 to Aug. 6. For more information, contact the Law Center at DSN 360-7682/7691 or +31 (0)46-4437682/7691.
- **Central Processing Facility/Passport ID card** - The Central Processing Facility/Passport ID card office in JFC Brunssum will be relocating and will be closed temporarily from July 16 to July 20. They will be relocated to Room 3 in the same building H603 (the former Benelux Finance Office). For ID Card emergencies, please call the GK ID Card Office at civilian +49 (0)2451-532204.

Through Aug. 19

- **2018 Summer Reading Program** - Open to all U.S. and NATO ID cardholders up to age 18 through Aug. 19. Children interested in this program should register at <https://brunssumlibrary.beanstack.org>. Children will check out and read books from the JFC HQ Brunssum Library and receive a variety of prizes for the number of minutes they read. Preschool children may earn prizes by having books read aloud to them. For more information call +31 (0)45-5262669 or +31 (0)45-5262469. JFC HQ Library is open to all U.S. and NATO ID cardholders in the Tri-Border Community and is located next to B&S Central Store Bldg. 604.

Through Sept. 15

- **Bowling Center** - Kids bowl free at the Schinnen Bowling Center with a Bowling Pass. Registration is open until Sept. 15. To sign up, go to www.kidsbowlfree.com/Army.



July 18-19

- **Veteran's Administration (VA)** - Are you a service member or veteran with questions regarding VA benefits? Make a one-on-one appointment! The Veteran's Administration (VA) will have a representative at the JFC Brunssum Library Conference Room from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to meet with anyone who would like a one-on-one appointment. If you have any questions about your Veteran's benefits, now or in the future, this is the person to speak with. To schedule an appointment, please call DSN 606-244-3848 or +31 (0)45-5263848.

July 19-20

- **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 and shopping areas and learn how to use the local train system. For more information or to register, call DSN 360-7500 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437500.



July 29

- **Darryl Worley Outdoor Concert** - The show starts at 4 p.m. in Schinnen. Bring a blanket and/or a comfortable chair. Country music artist Darryl Worley's six albums have produced 18 singles on the Billboard Hot Country Songs charts. This is Worley's fifth tour with Armed Forces Entertainment since 2013. For more information, contact DSN 360-7560/7370 or +31 (0)46-4437560/7370.

Aug. 18

- **Benelux Expo 2018** - Meet your local family and MWR facilities, community programs, private organizations, clubs, and more! Held at the Schinnen Recreation Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit <https://benelux.armymwr.com>.

SHAPE/CHIÈVRES COMMUNITY

See also page 6 in "All Communities."

Every First Week of the Month

- **Intro to Gym Machines** - The SHAPE Sports and Fitness Center hosts this walk-thru Tuesday at 10 a.m. and Thursday at 6 p.m. Book an appointment at the fitness center.

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.

Every Tuesday

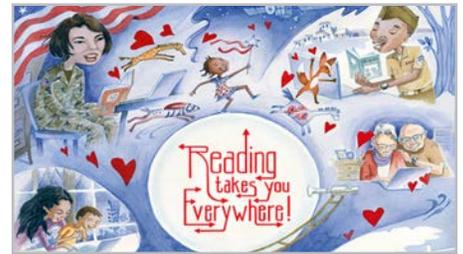
- **Summer Reading Toddler & Preschool Story Time STEAM** - Join the SHAPE International Library (Bldg. 307) from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. for an afternoon of stories and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math). The program will start with a story time and end with a hands-on project. Recommended for ages 2-4. No cost. For more information, call DSN 423-5631 or +32(0)65-445631.
- **Self-Defense** - Men and women over age 18 can attend this beginner-level self-defense course hosted by certified instructors from the Spanish Forces every Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the SHAPE main gym basketball court. Registration is free. Contact self_defense_shape@outlook.es.
- **POV Orientation Class** is conducted at SHAPE Bldg. 220 in room 104 from 8 a.m. to noon. Schedule an appointment in order to receive study material.

Every Wednesday

- **GOV Orientation Class** is conducted from 8 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. U.S. and Canadian personnel must complete a POV orientation to obtain a SHAPE driving license. Call DSN 366-6603 or +32 (0)65-326603 for more information.

Through August 31

- **Summer Reading 2018** - You can register online or visit the SHAPE International or Chièvres Library. All you have to do is read, be read to, or listen to an audiobook. Summer Reading 2018 is open to all ages, and you can read in any language. Track the minutes you have read, or listened to an audiobook, and you will receive prizes throughout the summer. If you are on holiday, you have until Aug. 31 to collect your prizes. The SHAPE International Library also offers programs through the summer, but you do not have to attend the programs to take part in the reading portion of Summer Reading. No cost. To register for Summer Reading please either visit the SHAPE International or Chièvres Library, or register online at <https://shapeinternational.beanstack.org/reader365>. If you are a non-US NATO family, select 'Army' when asked which branch of service. For more information, contact DSN 423-5631 or +32 (0)65-445631.



July 20

- **Fun for Kids** - Meet new friends during Fun for Kids at the Chièvres Community Activity Center. Open from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. You can get together a game of pick-up basketball or play on bouncy castles. It's also a great opportunity for newcomers to the community to meet other parents. Open to U.S., NATO, U.S. Mission, and US Embassy ID cardholders. No entrance fee.

July 26-29

- **Beauty and the Beast + Winnie the Pooh - SHAPE Players'/Performing Arts School** - SHAPE Players'/Performing Arts School presents 2018 Summer Theater Camp in Beauty and the Beast and Fractured Fairy Tales Camp in Winnie the Pooh. Performances are Thursday to Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. Entry is €15 for adults, and €10 for children. For more information, visit www.shapeplayers.net.

July 30, Aug. 13/14, Aug. 27/28 and Sept. 10/11/24

- **Host Nation Orientation** - Army Community Service is inviting all service members, civilians, and their family members to participate in Host Nation Orientation Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m and Tuesday from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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. Registration is required. Call DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)65-326824.

Aug. 1

- **Mindful Yoga Therapy** - You will learn to calm your mind and center your body in order to enhance your daily life. Offered by Army Community Service from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information, call DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)65-326824.



Aug. 11

- **Benelux Expo 2018** - Meet your local family and MWR facilities, community programs, private organizations, clubs, and more! Held at the Chièvres Community Activity Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit <https://benelux.armymwr.com>.

Aug. 25

- **Dog's Day Out** - The Chièvres Kennel is hosting an afternoon of fun for both canine and human! Dog's Day Out will feature fun dog show with prizes, dog grooming demo, "kissing booth", agility course, dog obedience demo, and food sales. Held in the SHAPE Fest Tent from noon to 3 p.m. It's necessary to sign up in advance because it will not be possible to register during Dogs' Day Out. Visit <https://chievres.armymwr.com/promos/dogs-day-out-talent-show-registration> to register. For more information, call DSN 361-5436 or +32 (0)68-275436.



**DOG
DAY!**

Upcoming elections

Below are the election dates for June to August:

- **July 17:** Alabama
- **July 24:** Georgia
- **August 2:** Tennessee
- **August 4:** Virgin Islands
- **August 7:** Ohio 12th Congressional District Special General
- **August 7:** Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Washington
- **August 11:** Hawaii
- **August 14:** Connecticut, Minnesota, Vermont, Wisconsin
- **August 21:** Alaska, Wyoming;
- **August 25:** Guam
- **August 28:** Arizona, Florida, Oklahoma

For more information, contact the Voting Assistance Officer for USAG Benelux, at DSN 366-6192 or +32(0)65-32-6192 or visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at: www.fvap.gov. ♦

UPCOMING ORGANIZED TRIPS & TOURS

SHAPE Trips & Tours

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

- Beyonce and Jay-Z Concert in Paris, **July 14**
- Rotterdam with Harbor Tour, **July 14**
- 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.

- Deep Sea Fishing (Mackerel), **July 21**
- Alpine Camp in Garmich-Partenkirchen, Germany, **July 22-27**
Registration ends July 13!
- Family Day "Trout Fishing", **Sept. 8**
- Day Trip to the Largest Wine Festival in the World in Bad Dürkheim, Germany, **Sept. 15**
- Prague Express, Czech Republic, **Oct. 12-14**
- NFL Game at Wembley Stadium, **Oct. 27-29**



World Cup 2018: Belgium competes for 3rd place

Through July 15, millions of people watch the 2018 World Cup. Every week until the end of the competition, we give you information about this international soccer tournament. This week, for the last part of our series, let's talk about the reactions in Belgium after the match against France.

By Christophe Morel

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

What a disappointment for Belgium. There won't be a first World Cup final.

The "Red Devils" wanted to write history, but they will only play the "little final" Saturday.

July 10, France kicked Belgium out of the 2018 World Cup after its 1-0 victory in the first semi-final. Thirty-two years after the semi-final against Argentina at the 1986 World Cup (Belgium lost the game 1-0), Belgian players are disappointed but also proud of their achievements.

During the competition, they showed team spirit and determination. They also beat Brazil, one big favorite to win the World Cup, in the quarter-final.



Thousands of French supporters watch the match between Belgium and France July 10 in Lille, France. (U.S. Army photo by Christophe Morel)

After the game, Belgian fans were sad, but they expressed gratitude to the players and the coach. For many fans, this generation had a real chance to come home with the World Cup, but making it to the semi-finals is still an accomplishment.

The atmosphere was more festive in France, especially in Paris, where thousands of fans sang "We are in the final" on the Champs-Élysées. In many other cities, French fans celebrated victory into the streets. Now, they are waiting for the last game against Croatia Sunday at 5 p.m.

Belgium will also have to play a last match, the "little final" against England Saturday at 4 p.m. Then the players will take part in a homecoming celebration in Brussels on Sunday. A bus tour will start at the Royal Palace at 2 p.m. and arrive on the Grand Place at 3 p.m. where the players will say thank you to the fans.

As many people say in Belgium, "we win together and we lose together." ♦



There will be one last game for Belgian supporters July 14 at 4 p.m. (U.S. Army photo by Christophe Morel)

Outside the Gate

Stay Vigilant

If you plan to attend the match for third place, don't forget to stay vigilant:

- Maintain situational at all times when attending events involving large crowds.
- 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. ♦



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

Through July 15

- **Gallic Village in Liège** - There will be about 40 chalets/stands offering local products such as ham on the bone, spit-roasted ham, paella, grilled duck fillet, Savoyard tart, wine, beer and more. The covered terraces allow dining on the spot. Held on Place Saint Paul. No entrance fee.

Through Aug. 12

- **Brussels Beach 2018** - Brussels opens its urban beach at the Quai des Péniches near Place Saintelette. There will be lots of events and activities for all ages. The site is closed on Tuesdays. No entrance fee.

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).

Through Sept. 30

- **Bastogne War Museum (Summer Program)** - There will be Escape Rooms (July. 15 and Aug. 28), one-day internships, a night walk (Sept. 29), new things to see in the museum, and more. For more information, visit www.bastognewarmuseum.be or call +32 (0)61-210220.

July 13-22

- **The Fest Days of Gent**- A cultural folkloric festival held in the center with shows, theater, exhibitions, rides, old crafts market, parades, and more. For more information, visit www.gentsefeesten.be.

July 14

- **Volksmarch in Templeuve for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** Departs from the school on Rue de Tournai, 4 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea Market in Chièvres** - Held on Rue de Ladeuze and Rue du Bois featuring 100 booths from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

July 14-15

- **Bread Festival in Tournai** - Held at the top of Mont-Saint-Aubert. The entire day is centered around the theme "bread" and starts at 8 a.m. with breakfast composed of pain boucas and Maroilles cheese. The schedule includes walking and bike ride, visit of the city by little train, mass in the local language, craft market, farm, concerts and fireworks. No entrance fee. For more information, visit <http://www.visittournai.be/>

July 15/22/29 & August 5

- **Summer Dance Festival in Mons** - Held on Grand-Place every Sunday from 3 p.m. to midnight. Initiations into dance, parties, shows, and more.No entrance fee.



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

Through July 15

- **Caribbean Fest in Gladbeck (GE)** – Held at Willy-Brandt-Platz with sand beach, palm trees, Caribbean food, cocktails, music, and more. No entrance fee.
- **Zwarte Cross in Lichtenvoorde** - The festival offers music, a market, theater, motocross, and stunts. Held on Heringsaweg. Entry is €27.50 for adults, and €10 for children under age 15. For more information, visit www.zwartecross.nl.

July 13-15

- **July 14 (French National Day) in Maastricht** Get in the French atmosphere and enjoy French music, street theater, food, and more. Held at Faliezusterpark and Jekerkwartier. No entrance fee. For more information, visit www.14juillet.nl.
- **Culinary Festival Minden (GE)** – Visitors can enjoy many culinary specialties from restaurants and other local gastronomic businesses for a small fee. Held on Market Square in the center.
- **North Sea Jazz Festival in Rotterdam** - One of the most renowned jazz festivals in the world. Held at Ahoy. For more information, visit www.northseajazz.nl.
- **Bospop in Weert** - An attractive pop, rock and blues festival held at Stienestraat/Rivierestraat with national and international bands. For more information, visit www.bospop.nl.

July 13-22

- **“Bloem & Tuin 2018” in Nuenen** - Held at Gulbergen Estate near de Schoutse Vennen. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €12 for adults, free for children under age 14.

July 14

- **Fantasy Meeting & Fair in Coevorden** – Held on Market Square with cosplay, steampunk, re-enactments, fantasy, and more. Open from noon to 5 p.m. Free entry and parking.

July 14-15

- **Medieval Event in Almkerk** – There are re-enactors, birds of prey shows, archery, and more. Held at Hoekje, 7b. Open Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry is €5.
- **Delft Ceramica** - Many artists and craftsmen participate in the event. Held at Market Square. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. No entrance fee.

July 15

- **Folklore Festival in Exloo** - Held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with demonstrations of old crafts, folk dances, exhibitions, food, children activities, and more. Entry is €5 for adults, and €2 for children.

July 17-20

- **Nijmegen March** - Join the world’s largest walking event. For more information, visit www.4daagse.nl.

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.

Outside the Gate



Jemappes (N51): Pay attention if you drive on N51. There is a degradation of the pavement in Jemappes (R5) in the direction of Valenciennes from 9.6 km to 9.7 km. Please drive safe.



Obourg-Thieu (E42-E19/A7): There is road congestion between Obourg and Thieu, in the direction of Brussels. The speed of traffic is reduced to 50 km/h. Work is scheduled to be completed by mid-July.



Brussels: During July and August, the Leopold II Tunnel is closed.



Brussels: Road construction began in the Reyers-Montgomery Tunnel in both directions and in the Reyers-Meiser Tunnel in the direction of the E40. Drivers who travel to Brussels from the ring are asked to use alternative routes via the A12, the Leopold III Tunnel and the E411. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.



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 this fall.



Andenne/Daussoux (E42/A15): The three-way yard project between Andenne and Daussoulx has been underway since August 2017. 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.