USAG Benelux Year in Review
January 2021 – December 2021

2021 was a momentous year for USAG Benelux.

As our communities across Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany move into a new year we reflect upon the accomplishments and victories achieved in 2021.

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January 2021

Vaccinations across the Benelux

The SHAPE Healthcare Facility and Brussels Army Health Clinic conduct their first inoculations of healthcare workers with the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine Jan. 7, 2021. Sgt. Andrew Petersen, left, biomedical equipment technician at SHAPE Healthcare Facility, receives a COVID-19 vaccination at the healthcare facility Jan. 8, 2021 at Mons, Belgium. (U.S. Army photo by Christophe Morel)

Emergency Exercise

The military police responds to a pair of suspicious parcels that arrive at the installation’s community mail room during a training exercise Jan. 29 at the Brunssum Site of U.S. Army Garrison Benelux in the Netherlands. (U.S. Army photo by Jessica Abbas)

February 2021

Support for Atlantic Resolve

Temporary buildings surround hangars used as barracks, on Chievres Air Base, Belgium, Feb. 12, 2021. Chievres Air Base was a staging and quarantine area for Soldiers of the 1st Combat Air Brigade, 1st Infantry Division as they deployed in support of Atlantic Resolve. (U.S. Army photo by Pierre-Etienne Courtejoie)

Interns from Belgian university strengthen USAG Benelux workforce

Maryse Wetauzilana-Miezi, an intern from the University of Mons, works at her desk at the Religious Support Office Feb. 21. Local Belgian college students have been helping U.S. Army Garrison Benelux at Chievres Air Base accomplish its mission by participating in the garrison’s internship program. USAG Benelux has offered internships to students from the Faculty of Translation and Interpretation of the University of Mons, which gives them an immersive linguistic and cultural experience with English native speakers, all without leaving the country. (U.S. Army photo by Christophe Morel and courtesy photo)

Snow at the Garrison

Snow on Chievres Air Base Jan. 14, 2021. (U.S. Army photo by Christophe Morel)

Best Warrior Competition

Sgt. Isaac Mayfield treats a simulated casualty at Chievres Air Base, Belgium, Jan. 26, 2021. After a week competing against their garrison peers, two U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Soldiers from Army Positioned Stock Site (APS-2) Dülmen in Germany were selected the best Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the year during the garrison’s Best Warrior Competition Jan. 28 at Chievres Air Base, Belgium. Spc. Hunter Tinsley, member of the Directorate of Emergency Services’ military police, earned the title of “Soldier of the Year.” Sgt. Isaac Mayfield, team lead for DES at APS-2 Dülmen, earned “NCO of the Year.” (U.S. Army photo by Christophe Morel)

ACS Operation Better Together at the HUB/on the road

Army Community Services take their Operation Better Together trainings, on the road! The Feb. 4 event (at the HUB, Brunssum Site) offers classes to enhance resilience and readiness while increasing awareness and utilization of community support resources. Sessions offered include Setting SMART Financial Goals, Building New Personal Habits, Setting Family Goals and Mapping your Education Goals. (U.S. Army photo by Jessica Abbas)
March 2021

Bene Brew opens doors at Chièvres Air Base

The Bene Brew Café and Pub officially opens doors March 11 at Chièvres Air Base, Belgium in a ribbon-cutting ceremony with Tommy Mize, director of Installation Management Command Directorate - Europe. (U.S. Army photos by Christophe Morel)

LEWTAQ Training


Workers from a Belgian construction company build a traffic circle on Chièvres Air Base, Belgium, March 19, 2021. (U.S. Army photo by Henry Cambier).

Belgian Paratroopers

Members of the Belgian Special Forces Group take parachute training at the airfield at Chièvres Air Base. For the first time, U.S. Army Garrison Benelux and 424th Air Base Squadron - an Air Force element at the garrison - hosted the Belgian Defense Forces' Paratroopers Training Center as they held training and qualification jumps for their paracommandos March 1, 2021. (U.S. Army photo by Bryan Gatchell)

5 Levels of Leadership Training Across the Benelux

Ashley Dean, chief of Administrative Services at U.S. Army Garrison Benelux, follows up on leadership development training, “Invest in You and Live up to your Greatness!” This is the motto from the Installation Management Command Training Center to start the Game Changer Training: The 5 Levels of Leadership. Twenty members from U.S. Army Garrison Benelux participated in this two-session workshop March 11 and 25 designed for supervisors but offered to anyone interested in knowing more about leadership. (U.S. Army photo by Julie Piron)

Bagging Groceries / Support for the Emergency Relief Fund

Volunteers put groceries in bags at the Chièvres Commissary and at the Brunssum Commissary to support the Army Emergency Relief Fund. (Courtesy photos)

April 2021

Make a Connection

Col. James Ross Yastrzemsky, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Benelux, shows a rock during the Operation Springtime Rocks: “Paint some rocks, hide them in your community, and be on the lookout for other painted rocks.” (U.S. Army photo by Col. James Ross Yastrzemsky)

Weapon Training

USAG Benelux Military Policemen host their Belgian counterparts, assigned to the Belgian Military Police Group - Force Provost Marshal, who perform the U.S. Army law enforcement shooting drills on Chièvres Air Base, Belgium, March 19, 2021. (U.S. Army photo by Pierre-Etienne Courtejoie)

Workers from a Belgian construction company build a traffic circle

Contractors with Belgian construction firm Wanty build a traffic circle on Chièvres Air Base, Belgium, March 19, 2021. (U.S. Army photo by Henry Cambier).
May 2021

New Tank Displayed on CAB

Chièvres Air Base welcomes a new tank on May 19, 2021 in Chièvres, Belgium. (U.S. Army photos by Libby Weiler)

Beautification Day Across the Benelux

On Friday May 21, 2021, the entire USAG Benelux (all sites) participates in Area Beautification / Cleanup Day. (U.S. Army photo by Christophe Morrel)

Spouse Challenge

Spouses test their physical and mental fortitude during the “Spouse Challenge” on Chièvres Air Base May 14, 2021. (U.S. Army photo by Libby Weiler)

Memorial Day Commemorations

U.S. Army Garrison Color Guard performs their duties during the Memorial Day ceremony May 31, 2021, at the Ardennes American Cemetery in Neupré, Belgium. (U.S. Army photo by Julie Piron)

Wilma van der Rijt, mayor of Brunssum, Gen. Jorg Vollmer, commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum and Col. James R. Yastrzemsky, commander U.S. Army Garrison Benelux, lay wreaths for a brief but solemn ‘Dodenherdenking’ commemoration at the general Brunssum Cemetery and the Brunssum War Cemetery on May 4, 2021. ‘Dodenherdenking’ is Remembrance Day, held annually on May 4 in the Netherlands. The day commemorates all civilians and members of the armed forces of the Kingdom of the Netherlands who have died in wars or peacekeeping missions since the beginning of the Second World War. (Image courtesy of Gemeente Brunssum)

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux leaders and service members participate in the Memorial Day ceremony May 31, 2021, at the Henri Chapelle American Cemetery in Plombières, Belgium. (U.S. Army photo by Julie Piron)

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux leaders and service members participate in the Memorial Day ceremony May 31, 2021, at the Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem, Belgium. (U.S. Army photo by Julie Piron)

Dodenherdenking Remembrance Day

Exercises in the Benelux

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux conducts a Hazmat exercise on Chièvres Air Base on May 12, 2021 and a DES exercise on May 21, 2021 in Brunssum. (U.S. Army photos by Libby Weiler and Jessica Abbas)
Army Birthday

To kick off the Army’s 246th birthday celebration, Soldiers and leaders across the Benelux perform physical training to “earn their cake!”

Teacher Appreciation

Across the Benelux, leaders, team members and Families come together to share their thanks at all three schools, in the form of certificates of appreciation, handmade signs and cheering squads. (Image courtesy of U.S. Army Garrison Benelux)

Summer Hire Swearing In

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux welcomes the summer hires to Chièvres Air Base on June 21, 2021. (U.S. Army photo by Libby Weiler)

Cars and Coffee on CAB

Community members participate in the “Cars and Coffee” event on Chièvres Air Base June 26, 2021. (Photo courtesy of Chièvres FMWR)

Triborder Blood Drive

Community members in the TriBorder region give the gift of life during the Triborder Blood Drive. (U.S. Army photo by Jessica Abbas)

Freedom Fest Across the Benelux

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux celebrates the independence of the United States July 3 and July 4 in the Benelux. (MWR photo and U.S. Army photos by Naomi van Loon and Bryan Gatchell)

Organizational Day in the Benelux

Community members take a break, relax, play some games, and enjoy each other’s company during the USAG Benelux Organizational Day on Chièvres Air Base, in Brussels, and in Brunssum. (U.S. Army photos by Jessica Abbas, Bryan Gatchell and Christophe Morel)
Ribbon Cuttings

August 2021

Welcome Expo at the Hub

September 2021

9/11 Commemorations

Chièvres Air Fest 2021

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux officially opens a new barbecue pit during a rain-pelted Sunday afternoon July 25, at the single service member quarters at Chièvres Air Base. (U.S. Army photo by Libby Weiler)

Leadership from Installation Management Command – Europe take part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Hub, the Army’s premier open-concept indoor recreation facility, July 27 at its location at USAG Benelux in Brunssum. (U.S. Army photo by Jessica Abbas)

Members of the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux take part in the ceremonies marking the 20th anniversary of 9/11 in Brussels and on Chièvres Air Base, Belgium and in Brunssum, the Netherlands. (U.S. Army photos by Julie Piron and Jessica Abbas)

USAG Benelux in Brunssum welcomes folks from across the Tri-Border region with an aim for connection during the Benelux Welcome Expo on Aug. 14, 2021. (U.S. Army photos by Jessica Abbas)
An estimated 15,000 Belgians, Americans, and other allied partners attend the inaugural Chièvres Air Fest, where they climb into static aircraft, interact with period-uniformed volunteers and historic vehicles, eat food from local vendors, listen to live music and watch fireworks. (U.S. Army photos by Bryan Gatchell, Christophe Morel, Jessica Abbas, and Libby Weiler)

Léonce Descamps, a Belgian Resistance fighter during World War II and resident of Neufvilles, Belgium, receives the Order of St. Michael Sept. 25, 2021 for her actions during World War II. (U.S. Army photo by Libby Weiler)

The village of Stambruges, Belgium organizes a commemoration honoring Charles Carlson, U.S. Air Force Bombardier, and local inhabitant Henri Cnudde, October 23, 2021. Carlson’s plane was shot down on Oct., 1943. He was subsequently rescued, treated and hidden by Cnudde. (U.S. Army photo by Julie Piron)

Retiree Appreciation Events

Local children visit with MPs and firefighters, Oct. 16, 2021 on Chièvres Air Base. (U.S. Army photos by Libby Weiler)


50th Anniversary Drag Hunt

The town of Wiemesmeer, Belgium holds its 50th anniversary Saint Hubertus "slipjacht" (Dutch for "drag hunt") Oct. 31. Hounds and equestrians track an artificial scent trail around the forest, including onto the garrison’s APS-2 Zutendaal. (U.S. Army photo by Bryan Gatchell)

Halloween Across the Benelux

Communities across U.S. Army Garrison Benelux provide Families an opportunity to trick-or-treat on post during Trunk-or-Treat at Chièvres Air Base and in Brussels, Belgium Oct. 29, 2021 and in Brunssum, the Netherlands, Oct. 31, 2021. (U.S. Army photo by Libby Weiler)
November 2021

Armistice Day

Nov. 11, in the cities of Chièvres, and Brugelette, Belgium, Col. James Yastrzemsky, commander, Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Yurgans, local officials and U.S. Army Garrison Benelux color guards commemorate the 103rd observance of Armistice Day at two separate ceremonies. Marking the end of World War I, the armistice was signed on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 and is a day to remember and honor the millions of lives lost to years-long conflict. (U.S. Army photos by Julie Piron and Marie-Lise Baneton)

Belgian Highway Police test speed calibration on CAB

Belgian Highway Police test speed calibration on Chièvres Air Base Oct. 28, 2021. (U.S. Army photos by Julie Piron and Libby Weiler)

December 2021

Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne


Holidays in the Benelux

USAG Benelux celebrate Christmas time at different locations during the month of December. (Courtesy of FMWR)