

# USAG Benelux

## Year in Review – 2021







# 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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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)



Best Warrior Competition



Sgt. Isaac Mayfield treats a simulated casualty at Chièvres Air Base, Belgium, Jan. 26, 2021. After a week competing against their garrison peers, two U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Soldiers from Army Prepositioned 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 Chièvres 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)

Snow at the Garrison



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

Support for Atlantic Resolve



Temporary buildings surround hangars used as barracks, on Chièvres Air Base, Belgium, Feb. 12, 2021. Chièvres 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 Courtois)



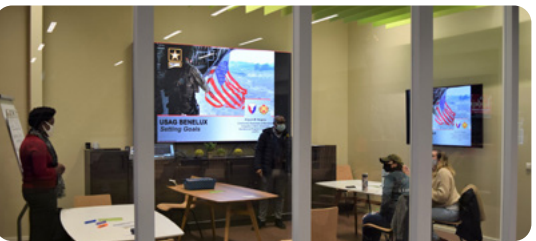
(U.S. Army photo by Stéphanie Delcroix)

Interns from Belgian university strengthen USAG Benelux workforce



Maryse Wetuyizila-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 Chièvres 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)

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)

### 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)

## LEWTAQ Training



U.S. Army Sgt. Christopher Locklin, a Military Policeman assigned to the Directorate of Emergency Services, U.S. Army Garrison Benelux, looks at a target during the Law Enforcement Weapons Training and Qualification (LEW-TAQ) on Chièvres Air Base, Belgium, March 16, 2021. (U.S. Army photo by Pierre-Etienne Courtejoie)

## 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)

## Make a Connection



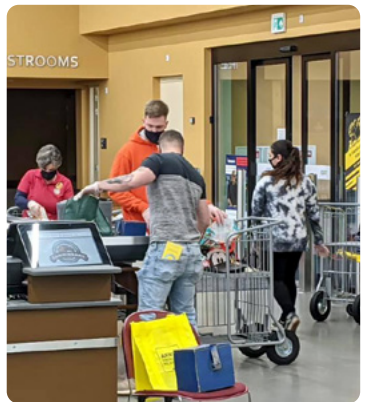
Col. James Ross Yastrzemsky, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Benelux, shows a rock during the Operation Springtime Rocks: “Paint some rocks, hide them in your community, and be on the lookout for other painted rocks.” (U.S. Army photo by Col. James Ross Yastrzemsky )

## April 2021

### 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)



### 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 Cam-bier).



## 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 Morel)

## 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)



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



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)

## 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)



## June 2021

### Army Birthday



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

### 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)

### 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)

### 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)

### 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)



## July 2021

### 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



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)

## August 2021

### Welcome Expo at the Hub



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)

## September 2021

### 9/11 Commemorations



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)



### Chièvres Air Fest 2021







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)

# October 2021

## Stambruges Commemoration



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



U.S. Army Garrison Benelux hosts U.S. Military Retiree Appreciation Day at Brunssum site and at SHAPE, Oct. 15-16, 2021. (U.S. Army photos by Jessica Abbas and Nathaniel Long)

## 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)



## Kid's Day on CAB



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)



## November 2021

### Armistice Day



Nov. 11, in the cities of Chièvres, and Brugelette, Belgium, Col. James Yastrzemycki, 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



U.S. Army Garrison Benelux takes part in the 77th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne, Belgium on Dec. 10-11, 2021. (U.S. Army photos by Libby Weiler, USAG Benelux Public Affairs)

### Holidays in the Benelux



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



