



# WW II Christmas Eve Mass Commemoration

**WHO:** CH (MAJ) Rob Elkowitz

**WHAT:** Maastricht Christmas Eve Mass

**WHEN:** 24 DEC 2023 at 1500

**WHERE:** Maastricht, NE, USAG Benelux

**Summary:** At midnight on Christmas Eve, in 1944, an estimated 280 U.S. Soldiers attended a Catholic Mass in a cave in Maastricht, NE. Seventy-nine years later, CH (MAJ) Rob Elkowitz helped keep the commemoration alive by facilitating the Mass, after learning that the Dutch Priest was ill.

**Purpose: LOE 1** - The Benelux RSO stands ready to connect with NATO partners and civilian clergy to ensure that spiritual growth and faith building opportunities are offered throughout the year.



CH Elkowitz proves time and again his adaptability and pastoral presence in the Tri-borders of USAG Benelux.

