

Brunssum

Brunssum, NL

Allied Joint Forces Command Brunssum (JFC Brunssum):

<https://www.ifcbs.nato.int>

NATO Communication and Information Systems Services Agency:

<https://www.ncia.nato.int/About/Pages/Locations/NCISS.aspx>



Contact Information

A CO, AFNORTH Battalion

A CO Commander DSN: 606-244-2572
A CO First Sergeant DSN: 606-244-3549
A CO Admin DSN: 606-244-3914

From U.S.: 0031-045-526-2572
From U.S.: 0031-045-526-3549
From U.S.: 0031-045-526-3914

Location

Garrison Support

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux-Schinnen: <http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/>

Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base, Germany: <http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil/Units/470th-Air-Base-Squadron/>

Local Railway Stations

Heerlen 15 min (with international connections) Sittard 15 min (with international connections)

Airports

Maastricht-Aachen Airport (European links) 30 min by road; Amsterdam Schiphol 2hr 30 min by road

Brussels Zaventem 1hr 30 min by road Düsseldorf 1hr 15 min by road.

Welcome

Welcome to US Army NATO (USANATO). A smooth transition to USANATO begins with good sponsorship. It is imperative that you initiate and maintain contact with your assigned sponsor immediately. Your sponsor is the one person who can help ensure that you and your family arrive in country and begin in processing smoothly. Be sure to address your concerns and questions before your arrival, so that your sponsor and gaining unit can assist you properly. Prior to your arrival, your sponsor should have made billeting reservations, airport transportation pick-up, and in-processing appointments for you as a minimum. Make sure to inform your sponsor of any last minute flight changes or reporting delays. Below is a highlight of what you can expect at your country of assignment. The information here is not all inclusive and may change over time. It is especially important to check and verify a country's requirement for passport and visa.

Major Unit: Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFC-Brunssum): <https://www.jfcbns.nato.int>

NATO Communication and Information Systems Services Agency:

<https://www.ncia.nato.int/About/Pages/Locations/NCISS.aspx>

Mission: Commands, supports, enables, facilitates the mission planning and execution of combined, joint operations using a Comprehensive Approach in order to meet Alliance objectives. Current primary mission is International Security Force in Afghanistan with NATO Article 5 Operational Planning, Military Cooperation and NATO Response Force (NRF) among our other major activities.

Passports/Visa

Family members and US Government civilians traveling overseas are required to have passports. Official or "no-fee passports" can be obtained at Government expense. The application process may take 4 to 6 weeks, so, you should begin the passport application process as soon as you receive your travel orders. Soldiers should also request a No-Fee Passport or apply for a Tourist Passport prior to leaving the United States for this assignment.

A birth certificate with a raised seal is required to apply for a passport. You can request a birth certificate from the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state where you were born. Adoption decrees, marriage and/or divorce decrees may be required for personnel getting a passport with a different name than the name that appears on the birth certificate. The U.S. State Department requires both parents' consent for new passports for children less than 14 years old. If one parent is unavailable

because of geographic separation, divorce, or other circumstances, the parent applying for a child's passport must obtain a signed statement from the absent parent that grants permission to take the child overseas.

Tourist passports are needed for personal travel in Europe. You may apply for tourist passports on arrival, but for convenience it is recommended that you should apply for the tourist passport while you're still residing in the United States. You can find more information on tourist passports from your local personnel services detachment, passport office nearest you, or from the U.S. State Departments official website at <http://travel.state.gov>.

Under the NATO SOFA members of a force (**active duty military members**) who are in possession of a current military ID card and travel orders are exempt from passport and visa requirements and from immigration inspection when entering the country. However, it is recommended that you apply for a tourist passport as many local national businesses (i.e. banks) will not accept your military ID.

In-processing

You will arrive at either Brussels International Airport, Brussels, Belgium or Amsterdam Schiphol, Netherlands. Your sponsor will pick you up from the airport and drive you to Brunssum, Netherlands. You will stay in one of the several hotels in the area that will be arranged for you by your sponsor. You will begin your in-processing at U.S. Army Garrison Benelux-Schinnen, JFC Brunssum and your assigned unit.

Registration of HQ JFCBS Personnel and Family Members

Please ensure you and your family members register upon arrival. Personnel and family members are required to report to the Passes and Permits Office in JFC HQ Brunssum Building 102 to register themselves. Military personnel must produce a DoD identity card. Civilian personnel must produce a valid passport. For more information, call them at HQ JFCBS ext. 244-2319.

Registration of Aliens at Town hall

All military members of NATO Forces in the Netherlands need to visit the office of the Royal Marechaussee for the Alien registration. The Marechaussee office is the town hall for members of NATO forces in The Netherlands, since they will not be registered at the Dutch local town hall itself. After obtaining a NATO identification card at the Pass Office, registration is required for JFCBS personnel and family members is at Building 100.

At the office we will register the military members (and their family) and inform the town hall where they will live. Please bring the following documents for the registration:

- Passport or identification card
- NATO identification card
- Copy of the house rental agreement or lease form of the housing office
- 2 pass photo's (only for kids under 3 years old)

Permit of residence

Family members of non-Dutch personnel must apply for a permit of Residence, even when both parents are military. Non-Dutch civilian personnel must also apply for the permit of

residence. Registration must be done within eight days of arrival in the Netherlands.

On completion of registration, a Permit of Residence (also known as a "Green Card\u201d) will be issued. This is the legal authority for non-Dutch nationals to reside in the Netherlands. The holder must carry this permit at all times. Within the Netherlands this may be used as an identity document in place of a passport. Loss of a Permit of Residence must be reported in person to the Royal Marechaussee Office for re-registration.

Closest Military Installation

USAG Schinnen is located 30 minutes from JFC HQ Brunssum and Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base, Germany is located 15 minutes from JFC HQ Brunssum.

Commissary/Post Exchange

USAG Schinnen is located 30 minutes from JFC HQ Brunssum, and has a mid-sized Commissary and a small Exchange Troop Store. If you require specific items (hair, face, body clothing, etc.) then it is recommended that you bring it in bulk when you depart or order them online. It is difficult to find specialty items such as these on the economy. Ensure you ask your sponsor about this if you are unsure.

Commissary Hours of Operation:

Closed Mondays

Tues-Fri 1000-1900,

Sat-Sun 1000-1800

Phone number: +31-46-443-7514

Exchange Hours of Operation:

Closed Mondays

Tues-Fri 1000-1900

Sat-Sun 1000-1800

Phone number: +31-46-443-7586, DSN: 314-360-7586

JFC HQ Brunssum The B&S Store

(A duty free store similarly to a Shoppette):

Closed on the Weekends

Mon-Fri 0800-1800

Medical/Dental

Dental needs will be handled by the GK Dental Clinic, Building 198 on Geilenkirchen NATO Airbase (USAF) located approximately 15 minutes from JFC HQ Brunssum

Hours of Operation: Mon, Wed, Fri 0745-1700; Tues 0745-1600; Thurs 0745-1130; Phone number: +49-2451-99-3200

Medical needs will be handled by the GK Medical Clinic, on Geilenkirchen NATO Airbase (USAF) located approximately 15 minutes from JFC HQ Brunssum. These facilities are small and provide limited services.

Hours of Operation: Mon-Thu 0800-1600; Fri 0800-1600

Phone number: Appointments +49-2451-99-3200 and TRICARE 0049-2451-99-3400

Welcome to the TOP Prime Remote Program! The health care specialists at International SOS (Intl. SOS) are available to assist you and will be arranging and managing your health care needs with your primary care physician. We understand that you may be more familiar with a Military Treatment Facility (MTF) or civilian assigned Primary Care Manager (PCM). In TOP Prime Remote locations, you will not have an assigned PCM. Intl. SOS will act as your PCM for referral and authorization management. The health and well-being of you and your family are our main priorities.

As the TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) contractor, Intl. SOS has developed a provider network in your enrolled remote location. This network includes hospitals, emergency, primary care, and specialty care providers. There are no enrollment fees for TOP Prime Remote beneficiaries and medical care is available on a cashless, claimless basis.

In order to receive cashless, claimless medical care, TOP Prime Remote beneficiaries must follow the procedures outlined below. It is also important to understand the Point of Service (POS) benefit and how Other Health Insurance (OHI) is used when receiving care in TOP Prime Remote locations.

International SOS is available to assist you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and you may call collect, if available. For toll-free contact information, visit www.tricare-overseas.com/contactus.

Point of Service Option: The TRICARE Prime Point-of-Service (POS) option allows TOP Prime and TOP Prime Remote Active Duty Family Members (ADFMs) to pay additional out-of-pocket fees to receive non-emergency health care services from any host nation provider without referrals. Note: Prior authorization requirements for certain services may still apply when using the POS option.

Visit www.tricare.mil/FindDoctor/Appointments/Authorization.aspx for more information. If you still have questions or need assistance when using the POS option, contact your TOP Regional Call Center.

***Note:** The POS option results in significantly higher out-of-pocket costs. TRICARE only reimburses 50 percent of the negotiated

Schools

Children of HQ JFCBS members attend the AFNORTH International School located in Brunssum.

In Brunssum

AFNORTH International School

Address: Ferdinand Bolstraat 1, 6445 EE Brunssum

www.afnorth-is.com

E-mail: ais.directorate@eu.dodea.edu Tel.: +31 (0)45 527 8220

Private school for children age 3 - 18.

AFNORTH International School (AIS) Brunssum provides education for pupils from 3 to 18 years of age. They serve the military communities in and around Brunssum, The Netherlands.

AIS (Pre-K through High School) is located adjacent to the JFC HQ Brunssum. For more information on registration requirements at AFNORTH International School,

contact the US School Registrar at: 0031-45-527-8251 or the School Liaison Officer at: 0031-45-526-023/3008.

The AIS staff is sensitive to both the special needs of our transient student population and the advantages inherent in this unique school setting. Parents may select an education in either the English or German language. There is also a French first language program available.

AIS is registered and accredited in each owning nation. The program is regularly inspected by educational authorities from each owning nation. The diplomas which its high school students earn are accepted by European and North American universities and colleges.

Adult continuing education for US service members is available at the Education Center at USAG Schinnen, located in building 19 above Community Bank. Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri 0800-1700 Phone Numbers: +31-46-443-7641, DSN: 314-360-7613

Housing

There is no on-post housing. USAG Schinnen will assist in getting into Government Leased Quarters or Private Leased Quarters. The housing office will notify you of the availability of Government Leased Quarters upon your arrival and will provide you assistance locating a home on the local economy if one is not available. Point of contact commercial +31-46-443-7720/7455/7567/7247/741 DSN: 314-360-7720/7455/7567/7247/7416

Mail

JFC Brunssum APO provides 24 hour access to mail boxes and limited mailing opportunities. USAG Schinnen has a full functioning post office that allows members to mail packages. Your sponsor can get your mailbox prior to you arriving, this will help just in case you need to ship something.

USAG Schinnen Post Office: Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 1000-1600, Thur 1000-1800 Contact number: +31-46-443-7279, DSN: 314-360-7279

JFC Brunssum Mail Room: Hours: Mon-Thurs 0900-1800, Fri 0900-1600 Contact numbers: +31-45-526-2616, DSN: 314-364-2616

Banking

The Netherlands currency is euro (EUR). You can exchange your dollars in a Netherlands bank or in an exchange office (kantoor), the Benelux finance office, or the Community Bank on Schinnen. You need to open a bank account in a local economy this can be either ING bank and/or ABN Amro in order to pay your local national bills. You can setup an allotment to your foreign bank to pay for rent and utilities. Comprehensive service in English is not always available and therefore most service members use internet banking. There are many ATM machines (bankomat) all over the city. Not all shops and restaurants accept credit cards.

Vehicles

License: The USAG Schinnen Drivers Testing Section provides EUCOM drivers training and testing for the Netherlands. JFC Brunssum ID Section provides the NATO drivers' license that is required along

with the EUCOM drivers' license. JFC Brunssum Vehicle Registration office provides the Netherlands license plates and vehicle registration paperwork.

Importation of Private Vehicles

All personnel assigned to HQ JFCBS (except Dutch Nationals) holding a full HQ JFCBS ID card are authorized to import their privately owned motor vehicles, caravans and/or trailers, free of duties import tax and Value Added Tax (BTW). However, be aware that when you sell an imported motor vehicle that was imported from outside the European Union to a non-entitled person you are obliged to pay the Import Tax as well as the Value Added Tax on the current market value.

Road Taxes

Families of HQ JFCBS, except Netherlands personnel, are exempt from Netherlands Motor Vehicle Road Tax. You are entitled to register as many (tax-free) vehicles as there are driving licenses in your family. Dependents have to reside with their sponsor. Changes have to be immediately reported to the Vehicle Registration Office Registration: JFC Vehicle Registration Office: Vehicle initial registration by appointment only. Contact Number: +31-26-2120, DSN: 314-364-2114

Fuel Card

Vehicle fuel ration cards are provided at the Exchange store on USAG Schinnen. The fuel card is only available to be used on post or in the local (Netherlands) Esso gas stations.

Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)

You will often hear the term Status of Forces Agreement or SOFA during your assignment overseas. Each European country has distinct differences regarding what rights or responsibilities are included in the SOFA agreement that they have with the United States. The SOFA plays a vital role in guaranteeing fair treatment of Soldiers and their family members. It defines the legal status of U.S. (Sending State) personnel and property in the territory of the host nation. The purpose of such an agreement is to establish rights and responsibilities between the United States and the host nation government on matters such as the wearing of the uniform, carrying arms, taxes, entry and exit of personnel and property (for example, automobiles, personal weapons), resolving damage claims, and other activities such as postal, recreation, and banking.

More importantly, SOFA deals with civil and criminal jurisdiction. They are a vital means by which the Department of Defense carries out its policy "to protect, to the maximum extent possible, the rights of United States personnel who may be subject to criminal trial by foreign courts and imprisonment in Foreign prisons." All civilian employees and family members going overseas will be provided a SOFA certificate for their passport. Contact your local military passport section for more information on the SOFA certificate.