

SHAPE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

As tradition has it, your association will meet again at SHAPE from 8 to 10 October this year. The symposium will follow the proven route and start with the Happy Hour on Thursday, followed by the General Assembly and a briefing on the recent developments in SHAPE and NATO on Friday. In the evening, we will have the opportunity to attend the Friendship concert of the SHAPE band at the Mons theatre. On Saturday, 10 October, we will have sport and cultural events. The Executive Committee has opted for excursions in and around Mons, one of the two 2015 cultural capitals of Europe, as well as the traditional golf tournament on Saturday morning. The last event of the symposium will be the dinner at the Grand Hotel in Valenciennes, France on Saturday evening.

The drive for the SOA scholarship programme was successful, so that we will be able to offer at least one scholarship of 1000 Euro in 2015. A scholarship may be awarded to a successful applicant during the General Assembly on Friday, 9 October 2015.

*The following pages contain the complete programme and required online registration information. Due to the very strict security requirements at SHAPE and therefore long lead times for processing of non-mission activities, members are asked to register not later than **23 September 2015**.*

PLEASE BE AWARE OF POTENTIAL TRAVEL PROBLEMS AS A 24 HOUR GENERAL STRIKE IS PLANNED IN BELGIUM FOR 7 OCTOBER.

We hope to see many of you at the 2015 Symposium.

SOA Executive Committee

55th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

SHAPE, October 2015

General Programme

Important note:

Members will arrange their own transportation to the hotels.

Airport shuttle service can be reserved in English at: <http://www.travel-autos.be/navettes/?lang=en>

Approximate cost – 60€ per trip

Thursday, October 8th, 2015

1600 Executive Committee meeting

1730-1900 Happy Hour at THANKS Galerie, Mons

Dress: Nice Casual Address: Rue des Telliers 5, 7000 Mons

Friday, October 9th, 2015

0900 Bus leaves Best Western Casteau Resort Hotel for SHAPE Club

0930-1000 Guided SHAPE tour by bus, departing from the SHAPE Club

1000-1100 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY** at the SHAPE Club, Pathfinder room

1100-1130 Break for coffee and tea

1130-1230 GA continues - Discussion

1230-1400 **Lunch Break** - No Host Lunch at SHAPE Club

1400-1500 “ACO Update” / Briefings, Pathfinder room

1515 Bus returns members to hotel

2000 Free SHAPE Band Friendship Concert at the Royal Theatre of Mons

Saturday, October 10th, 2015

0900-1400 Golf Tournament – for details see Annex 1

0930-1600 Cultural Programme Mons – for details see Annex 2

1930-2300 Annual Dinner at the Grand Hotel Valenciennes, France – for dinner menu selection see Annex 3

Address : 8 Place de la Gare, 59300 Valenciennes, Tel. +33 3 27 46 32 01

55th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

SHAPE, October 2015

ADMINISTRATIVE POINTS

1. DINNER FEE

Fees for the dinner MUST be paid at the time of registration (i.e. latest 23 September) to the SOA bank account via bank transfer to BNP Paribas/Fortis, Grand Place, Nimy 7020 Belgium. The IBAN for the SOA account number is: **BE14 2700 4615 5683** and the BIC is: **GEBABEBB**. Participants from overseas are invited to pay the dinner fee in cash at the Happy Hour in the THANKS Galerie. (Thursday).

Cost of dinner: **50 €** per person.

Fees for the cultural and the sport events will be collected in cash on the day of the events (for details see Annexes 1 and 2).

2. DRESS

Meetings Service Dress or business suit for retired officers/civilians

Dinner Business Suit

3. SHAPE SECURITY

SHAPE is no longer an “open base”. Over the weekend, there is only one entrance/exit into/from the compound, which is via the “Avenue de Berlin” (Visitors’ Gate). There is a **Visitors’ Office** (Tel: 065-44.8530) open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Be sure to carry with you at all times your SHAPE Entry Card and national Identity Card/Passport. Vehicles with the special pass issued will be allowed in; others will have to be parked in the Visitors’ Car Park outside the gate.

4. ACCOMMODATION / HOTEL

Do make your hotel reservations early. **Please mention “SOA” when making your reservations.**

Best Western Casteau Resort Hotel

Ch. de Bruxelles 38

B-7061 Casteau

Tel: 065-32.04.00

Email: info@casteauresort.be

Note: 21 Rooms have been reserved at the Best Western Casteau Resort Hotel for the SOA.

55th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

SHAPE, October 2015

5. TRANSPORTATION (for all participants)

Thursday, 8 October 2015

Afternoon: 1715 Bus departs Best Western Hotel for THANKS Galerie

Evening: 1930 Bus returns to Best Western Hotel

Friday, 9 October 2015:

Morning: 0900 Bus leaves from hotel for SHAPE

0930 Bus tour of Base departing from SHAPE Club

Afternoon: 1515 Bus leaves from SHAPE Club to the hotel

Evening: 1915 Bus leaves from Best Western Casteau Resort Hotel

2300 Bus leaves from Mons theatre to Best Western Hotel

Saturday, 10 October 2015:

Evening: 1815 Bus leaves from Best Western Casteau Resort Hotel

After Dinner Bus leaves from Grand Hotel for Best Western Hotel

6. **For those of you visiting the SHAPE compound; please note** that there is no SHAPE Club facility that is opened on **Sundays**, with exception of the Pizza Bowl (open Tue-Thu 1130-2300; Fri – Sat 1130-2330; Sun 1200-2300) and Carrefour (supermarket Mon-Fri 0830-1900, Sat 0830-1730, Sun 0830-1230). The Rendez-Vous Café in the Shopping Center is open Mon - Sat 0900 – 1730 hrs.

7. RESERVATION PROCEDURES

Participation in the activities listed above is possible after completing the **Reservation Form** ([GO TO ONLINE REGISTRATION](#)) and submitting it to the SOA Office by **23 September**. (online via registration page). Make sure you fill out all the fields, put "n/a" if nothing to add.

Please make sure that you select your dinner menu, i.e. **Menu A** or **Menu B** or check **Dietary Restrictions** for another choice on the spot.

8. RENTAL CAR POSSIBILITIES

AVIS, 8, Blvd Gendebien, 7000 Mons
Tel: +32-65-31.79.71

55th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

SHAPE, October 2015

EUROPCAR, 193A, Chaussée de Bruxelles, B-7020 Maisières
(opposite SHAPE Berlin Gate)
Tel: +32-65-72.30.35. Fax: +32-65-72.35.57.
Email: morethanacar@skynet.be

9. WELCOME PACKET

Each participant will receive a "Welcome Packet" upon arrival, which contains: Programme brochure, List of Participants, and more information about the activities.

MEMBERSHIP

Please make sure that your membership is up to date. European Members will pay via bank transfer to the SOA account with BNP Paribas/Fortis, Grand Place, Nimy 7020 Belgium. The IBAN for the SOA account number is: **BE14 2700 4615 5683** and the BIC is: **GEBABEBB**. US members will make payments to the US Chapter for consolidation and forwarding. Annual dues are payable during the two month period 1 December to 31 Jan each year.

The SOA Executive Committee

Mr. Stephen Covington, NATO CIV, US, Chairman
LtCol Günter Bretschneider, DEU AF, (Ret.), Co-Chairman
BrigGen Richard Laurent, BEL AF, (Ret.), NMR Liaison
Mr. Allan Jeavons, NATO CIV (Ret.), UK, Secretary
Col John Haas, US AF, (Ret.), US Chapter Liaison
LtCol Miroslaw Ochyra, POL A, SHAPE PAO Liaison
Mrs. Véronique Leroy, NATO CIV (Ret.), BEL, Treasurer
Mrs. Christiane Hermant, NATO CIV, BEL, Assistant Treasurer
Cdt Jean-Marie Boulet, BEL A, (Ret.), Data Base Management
Mr. Jürgen Walter, NATO CIV (Ret.), DEU, Communications/Internet Manager
Mr. Scott Sunquist, US CIV (Ret.), Scholarships
Mr. Jean Vanderwal, NATO CIV (Ret.), BEL, MONS 2015 Project

55th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

SHAPE, October 2015

ANNEX I – GOLF TOURNAMENT

Each golfing member is invited to compete on **Saturday 10 October 2015** in the golf tournament, to be played at **the Royal Golf Club du Hainaut**. Details of the event are as follows:

- Date/Venue:** **Saturday 10 October 2015 at the Royal Golf Club du Hainaut (RGCH).**
- Tee times:** Period 09.00-11.00 Hr.
- Transport:** No official SHAPE transport is available. Maps will be provided.
- Competition:** Stableford, using full handicap as furnished by each competitor.
- Fees:** RGCH has kindly agreed a special green fee of **50 Euros**. A sum of **10 Euros** will be collected from each player to cover the cost of prizes.
- Clubs:** Players are expected to bring their own clubs.
- Pull trolleys:** Pull trolleys can be rented for **5 Euros**. Reservation required.
- Golf Carts :** Available at the price of **30 Euros**. Reservation required.
- Luncheon:** After golf, lunch is available at the clubhouse on individual basis.
- Prizes:** The prize giving ceremony will be held at the official dinner at Grand Hotel Valenciennes
- Payments:** Please make all payments on the day, **ONLY IN CASH PLEASE.**

For further information, contact Mr. J.M. BOULET, SOA ExCom member at +32 473 49 30 89 (Cell), or Email: jmhboulet@yahoo.com or shapeoa@gmail.com .

Each member wishing to participate in the SOA Golf Tournament is asked to complete the proforma by answering the questions below in the registration package **NO LATER THAN 23 SEPTEMBER 2015**. Tee times will be published at the Clubhouse and will also be available from J.M. BOULET and the SOA Office.

PROFORMA SOA Golf Tournament – Saturday 10 October 2015 - at RGCH

1. I / my spouse and I wish to participate: Name(s)
 2. I am a member / we are members of RGCH: Yes / No
 3. My current handicap is
My spouse's handicap is
 4. If possible, I would like to play with:
 5. Please arrange for the hire of a pull trolley: Yes / No
 6. Please arrange for the hire of a golf cart: Yes / No
- Telephone contact number:

55th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

SHAPE, October 2015

ANNEX II - CULTURAL TRIP MONS

SOA Members and their friends are cordially invited to join the cultural programme Mons on **Saturday, 10 October 2015**.

Details of the programme will become available closer to the date of the event; however the programme will feature events taking place on Saturday, 10 October in and around Mons as part of the Cultural Capital of Europe Programme:

Departure: **Saturday 10 October 2015, 09.15 hrs**, group meets in front of the Best Western Casteau Resort Hotel

0930 hrs Bus departs from Best Western Casteau Resort Hotel

Transport: Chartered bus

Fee: **TBD** Euro per participant, which covers the bus trip and all entrance fees.

Guided Tours: guided tours will be provided in English.

Return: **1530 hrs** Bus returns to Best Western Casteau Resort Hotel

Payments: Please make all payments on the day, **ONLY IN CASH PLEASE**.

Please sign up for this tour at the same time as you register on-line for the Symposium.

55th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

SHAPE, October 2015

ANNEX III – DINNER MENUS - SATURDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2015

The following menus are proposed for your selection. Attendees are requested to indicate their choice of Menu A or Menu B (no substitutions). For those with dietary restrictions, on request, a vegetarian menu can be provided. The price for the dinner is 50€/person Please indicate your menu choice on your attendance application.

Menu A

- Starter:** Tarte fine de Gambas au coulis d'étrilles (crustacé crabe) et concassée de tomates au pesto
(Gambas in a seafood sauce with a tomato pesto)
- Main Course:** Emincé de Magret de Canard confit au Poivre vert, petits légumes de saison, pommes Anna
(Magret de Canard (Duck Breast) with a Green Pepper Sauce, Seasonal vegetables and potatoes "Anna")
- Dessert:** Duo Poire-Chocolat, Crème anglaise à la vanille de Tahiti
(Chocolate covered baked pear with Vanilla Custard)

Menu B

- Starter:** Duo de Saumon Frais mariné et Fumé, Toast de pain de la campagne
(Duo of marinated and smoked Salmon with Country style bread)
- Main Course:** Pavé de Veau aux épices de Colombo et légumes de saison, pommes gaufrettes
(Veal Steak with Spices of Colombo, seasonal vegetables and potatoes "Gaufrettes")
- Dessert :** Duo Poire-Chocolat, Crème anglaise à la vanille de Tahiti
(Chocolate covered baked pear with Vanilla Custard)

The meal includes, the aperitif, fingers foods, wines selected by the wine steward, coffee, tea and water.