



# First In Support !

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21st Theater Sustainment Command, Kaiserslautern, Germany

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## Remembering the 67th Anniversary of Normandy



World War II veterans salute during the playing of Taps at the commemoration ceremony at Picauville, France, June 3. The ceremony is the site of a memorial remembering the crash of a C-47 aircraft shot down during airborne operations in June of 1944 and one of many ceremonies that honor the 67th anniversary of the Normandy invasion. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tramel S. Garrett, 21st TSC Public Affairs)

*Story by Staff Sgt. Tramel S. Garrett,  
21st TSC Public Affairs*

Normandy, France – “You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months,” Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, supreme allied commander, wrote in his now famous order starting Operation Overlord June 6th, 1944, which ultimately brought about the liberation of Europe from Nazi Germany. “The eyes of the world are upon you.” With these now-famous words, Eisenhower ordered hundreds of thousands of brave allied soldiers into battle on a day now commonly referred to as ‘D-Day.’

On this, the 67th anniversary, troops from the 21st

Theater Sustainment Command, along with the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division, the U.S. Air Force Reserve and U.S. Air Forces Europe as well as numerous reenactment and veterans organizations, all pulled together for nearly a full week of ceremonies, events and commemorations in honor of the historic events of 1944, in the Normandy region of France.

Soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Div. joined World War II veterans and re-enactors for a ceremony at Angoville au Plain, France, where wreaths were laid at a monument honoring the sacrifices made by Soldiers



World War II veterans sign autographs after a commemoration ceremony at Angoville au Plain, France, June 4. The ceremony honors two medics from the 101st Airborne Division who rendered aid to 80 combatants and a local child in 1944 during the war. This ceremony is one of many in honor the 67th anniversary of the Normandy invasion. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tramel S. Garrett, 21st TSC Public Affairs)

during the war in 1944.

A monument at Angoville au Plain is dedicated to medics Robert E. Wright and Kenneth J. Moore of the 101st Airborne Div. as they rendered medical aid to 80 wounded Soldiers and a local child during the invasion.

“What we do here today honors the sacrifices of the men from many armies who gave their all for their countries, their fellow paratroopers and for freedom,” said Maj. Gen. Jim Huggins, the commanding general for the 82nd Airborne Div.

“For the French this is very important. It’s our duty to keep this memory alive for our future generations,” said Dominique J. Vanhaeren, a World War II re-enactor with the Normandy Memory Club. “The French will never forget what happened in 1944.”

Additionally at a ceremony in Chef du Pont, France, the citizens paid their respects as various city officials laid wreaths to honor the Soldiers who gave their lives while fighting for the freedom of the French people.

“It feels good,” said Raymond Fary, a WWII veteran, when speaking about attending the ceremony at Chef du Pont. “The French people really appreciate us here.”

Picauville, France, was the site of another memorial remembering the crash of a C-47 shot down during airborne operations in June of 1944.

“The people here were brave, some of you here today were some of those who went out to the crash site despite the risk to yourselves,” said Col. Steve Lambert, vice wing commander, 86th Airlift Wing. “They gave medical aid to the living and honorably recovered the remains of the dead.”

The French citizens continue to show their appreciation to the American service members. Families in and around Sainte Mere Eglise, France, invited Soldiers into their homes for dinner, solidifying a friendship that grows stronger with each generation that passes.

The local French people regard the World War II vets as celebrities and often ask them for autographs.

“One of the reasons why we come back every year is because of the respect the citizens show us,” said Dorothy Leveitsky Sinner, a nurse during World War II. They are happy to see us and they thank us for being here.”

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21st TSC Commanding General:

Maj. Gen. Patricia McQuiston

21st TSC Command Sergeant Major:

Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer

Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Anna Friederich

Public Affairs Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Rodney Williams

Layout & Design: Staff Sgt. Tramel S. Garrett

# 21st TSC's "The Reckoning" determines Best Warrior



Sgt. James Byrnes, a military policeman with the 18th Military Police Brigade, fights his way through a multiple combat scenario course culminating with a combatives tournament during the Best Warrior Competition at Lampertheim Training Area in Lampertheim, Germany, May 18. Byrnes earned the title of Warrior Leader of the Year of the year for the 21st Theater Sustainment command. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tramel S. Garrett, 21st TSC Public Affairs)

*Story by Staff Sgt. Tramel Garrett,  
21st TSC Public Affairs*

Baumholder, Germany – It started with a social event. This was just a ploy to ease the minds of 11 warriors who were about to begin a grueling battle for supremacy. One by one each brigade sergeant major in the 21st Theater Sustainment Command stood up proudly and introduced their warriors. These warriors were the best of the best and were ready to proclaim the title, "21st TSC Best Warrior."

Six noncommissioned officers and five Soldiers from throughout the 21st TSC, came together to

compete in the command's annual Best Warrior Competition entitled "The Reckoning," consisting of events here and in Lampertheim, Germany, May 15-19.

The competition, which was held to determine the Soldier and NCO who would represent the 21st TSC in the United States Army Europe level competition, challenged not only each Soldier's overall stamina, but also their physical and mental well-being.

The competition started with a written exam right after the social event. At the break of dawn the following day the competitors

showcased their level of physical fitness when the event continued with the Army Physical Fitness Test.

During the test the Soldiers were closely graded while they gave it their all to make every repetition count. Following a short break, the Soldiers began a rigorous 12-mile ruck march.

"The hardest thing was the 12 mile ruck march. It was definitely a challenge with the hills. You just have to keep pushing yourself," said Sgt James Byrnes, a military policeman with the 18th Military Police Brigade. "It was a very



Warrior of the year competitors of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command competition navigate through an urban assault scenario during the Best Warrior Competition at Lampertheim Training Area in Lampertheim, Germany, May 16. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tramel S. Garrett, 21st TSC Public Affairs)

intense course made to ensure you had the heart to keep going.”

“Many of the Soldiers have never been exposed to this level of intensity,” said Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer, the 21st TSC’s senior enlisted advisor. “A 23 percent uphill grade for a ruck march is a monumental task.”

The 21st TSC began preparation for the competition about six months ago. Sgt. Maj. Brent Dick, the 21st TSC military intelligence section NCOIC and Sgt. Maj. Bryon Starks, the 21st TSC Operations NCOIC, spearheaded the preparation and coordinated with numerous units to ensure the event would be successful as well as intense.

As a result, the scenarios were not only realistic, but also challenged the Soldiers’ technical and tactical knowledge.

“You cannot get battle focused training like this anywhere else,” said Pfc. Christopher Bidwell, a combat engineer with the 18th Eng. Bde. “This has been intense to say the very least.”

At the end of the exhausting course, which required competitors to drag casualties, provide first aid, navigate around obstacles and through a contaminated area and more, the Soldiers still had to face three opponents in Army combatives.

In addition for the first time ever, competitors were required to respond to a sexual assault situation.

“We added a sexual assault incident, which was intended to show how sexual assault could affect our combat power,” said Spencer. “Regardless if it’s a wound from downrange, training or sexual assault, we lose combat power.”

On the final day of the event, a ceremony was held on Panzer Parade Field in Kaiserslautern, Germany, to recognize the competitors of the demanding four-day competition. This also gave them time to relax and enjoy friends and family before the winners were announced.

After all the hard work and determination the competitors knew there could only be two winners - one NCO and one Soldier. As the crowd listened with anticipation, Spencer announced the winners of the 21st TSC Best Warrior Competition, Sgt. James Byrnes and Spc. Michael Perez-Arce, both from the 18th MP Bde.

“It felt really good to win,” said Perez-Arce. “When Command Sgt. Maj. Spencer announced the names my heart started beating really fast. I didn’t know who the winner would be because it was a really close competition.”

“I’m absolutely confident that our Warrior and Warrior Leader of the Year winners will go to the USAREUR level and have all the potential to win at that level and the Army level,” said Spencer.



Sgt. James Byrnes, a military policeman with the 18th Military Police Brigade, reports to Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer, the senior enlisted advisor for the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, during the file board segment of the Best Warrior Competition at Lampertheim Training Area in Lampertheim, Germany, May 18. . (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tramel S. Garrett, 21st TSC)

## 21st TSC Soldiers participate in “May I Kiss You”



Sgt. William Henry, an automated logistics specialist and Pvt. Jazmine King, a human resources specialist both with the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, participate in a role play during a segment of “May I Kiss You” at the Kaiserslautern Community Activity Center on Daenner Kaserne here, May 12. (Photo by Tramel S. Garrett, 21st TSC Public Affairs)

*Story by Staff Sgt. Tramel S. Garrett  
21st TSC Public Affairs*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – The Soldiers of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command participated in a sexual assault prevention class with a very special instructor. The class entitled, “May I Kiss You,” was held at the Kaiserslautern Community Activity Center on Daenner Kaserne here, May 12.

Mike Domitrz, the author of the critically acclaimed book “May I Kiss You” and a public speaker, has traveled all over the world to speak about sexual assault awareness. He addressed the Soldiers of the 21st TSC on consent, bystander intervention and supporting the victims of sexual assault.

Years ago, a life changing moment occurred in Domitrz’s life. While in college, he received a phone call

from his mother informing him that his sister had been sexually assaulted. This unpleasant event resulted in Domitrz focusing a majority of his time and effort on educating the public on sexual assault awareness.

According to Domitrz, it was not until 1990 after listening to someone speak publicly on the same subject, that he realized he could also speak out. As a result, Domitrz travels all over the world speaking at schools and universities. However, more than anything else, he loves to address servicemembers.

“I love working with the military. The military is a great audience because they really appreciate an engaging presentation,” said Domitrz.

During his presentation Domitrz involved the audience in discussions on the subjects of dating,

communication, respect and sexual assault awareness. Additionally, he discussed the importance of respect between marital partners and how to help your family and friends.

“If you are single or married, you should ask your loved one questions and respect the answers they give you,” said Sgt. Tierra Brown, an automated logistics specialist with the 21st TSC.

“Our culture does not teach us how to talk about intimacy. It (our culture) tells us to be respectful but does not give us the skills,” said Domitrz during his lecture.

Domitrz feels that this particular class is important for everybody.

“There are three things I want the audience to get out of this training,” said Domitrz. “(Show respect and) ask first, stop the (sexual) predators and open the doors for those you love.”

# 21st TSC Soldiers dine with families in France



Loic Dennebouy, a Picauville native, serves appetizers to 1st Sgt. Timothy Grinstead, the senior enlisted advisor of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's, 5th Quartermaster Detachment from Kaiserslautern, Germany, and Staff Sgt. Ashley Vasquez, an Airmen from Ramstein Airbase, Ramstein, Germany, after opening up his home for dinner to service members participating in the commemoration ceremonies remembering the 67th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France, June 2.

*Photos and Story by Staff Sgt. Michael Taylor  
21st TSC Public Affairs*

NORMANDY, France – Soldiers of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's 5th Quartermaster Detachment played a major role in this year's commemoration ceremonies remembering the 67th Anniversary of the D-Day invasions in Normandy. They took part by participating in more than 10 ceremonies honoring past veterans of World War II with dedications and memorials while admirably representing their unit.

But perhaps the best way the 5th QM Det. Soldiers were able to represent the 21st TSC and the U.S. Army, was at the homes and at the dinner tables of the families and citizens of Normandy.

In an effort to show appreciation to the service members who participated in the commemoration and the actions of the allied forces in liberating France 67 years ago, nearly 50 families from the towns of Picauville, Carentan, and Montebourg, opened up their homes for dinner to nearly 300 service members here, June 2.

Every year during the anniversary, local families open not only their homes, but their hearts to service members of all the allied nations.

“You are the grandchildren of the people who arrived

here in 1944,” said Stuart Giles, a Picauville native who invited three Soldiers to his home for dinner. “To extend the hospitality to our allies is a very good thing. You're welcome into our home anytime.”

The 5th QM Det. Soldiers split up in small groups and went to the homes of approximately 20 families in the town of Picauville.

While dining with the local populace, Soldiers were able to get a feel for the deep appreciation that the citizens of Normandy have for them as many of the families went above and beyond to accommodate the service members by planning activities like horseback riding, showing them family museums and playing board games.

“We had a family actually come and almost adopt us,” said Sgt. 1st Class Herschel L. Gillins, a parachute rigger with the 5th QM Det., and a native of Dallas. “We traded Facebook information and email addresses, they let us ride their horse, and they basically treated us like family.”

“You are all welcome here, Soldiers, Sailors, American, British, French, you are welcome into my house and you can sit, eat and drink with us until your heart's content,” said Giles. “It's a privilege to have you here and as far as I can say, as long as I'm alive you are more than welcome to come back year after year after year. You will never be turned away from our door,” he added.



American and French service members including personnel from the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's 5th Quartermaster Detachment from Kaiserslautern, Germany, and the Dennebouy family pose for a picture before dinner, June 2. The Dennebouy family opened up their home for dinner to service members participating in the commemoration ceremonies remembering the 67th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France

# 21st TSC Soldiers honor the 67th Anniversary of Normandy



Pfc. Stephan Hut, a Dutch army paratrooper, helps fellow paratrooper Spc. Winston H. Cartier III, a parachute rigger with the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's 5th Quartermaster Detachment, strap on a life preserver in Cherebourg, France, June 5.

*Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Taylor  
21st TSC Public Affairs*

NORMANDY, France – Perhaps one of the most famous Airborne Operations in History is Operation Overlord, more well-known as the D-Day invasion. In this famous assault on the German-occupied Normandy region of France, thousands of paratroopers dropped from hundreds of C-47 planes and into World War II. The commemoration of this event held a special place in the hearts of the airborne troops of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's 5th Quartermaster Detachment as they traveled to Normandy, June 1-6 to help commemorate the 67th Anniversary of this momentous event, most well-known for its airborne and amphibious assaults.

"Being able to step in the same sand, dirt, grass and pastures as past Soldiers did 67 years ago meant a great deal to me," said Sgt. Angel L. Cotte, a parachute rigger with the 5th QM Det., and a native of Bronx, N.Y.

The 5th QM Det. troops are part of more than a dozen military and civilian organizations that helped

commemorate that fateful day, June 6, 1944, when Canadian, British and U.S. forces conducted the largest amphibious invasion in history. In addition to the 124,000 who came by sea, another 23,000 paratroopers came in via glider or parachute, ultimately leading to the defeat of Adolf Hitler and his Nazis approximately two years later.

Every year the citizens of Normandy honor the sacrifices made by the men and women who risked their lives, some making the ultimate sacrifice to liberate France, by commemorating the anniversary of the invasion.

The 5th QM Det. took part in this year's commemoration by participating in more than 10 ceremonies that honored past veterans of World War II with dedications and memorials.

"The ceremonies have been just amazing," said Capt. Robin Eskelson, the commander of the 5th QM Det. Every single time we support the D-Day events, people come out with flags and tell us how thankful they are. "So to stand in these ceremonies makes you

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feel proud that you get to be a part of the history of thanking all the brave men and women who gave their lives,” she added.

With approximately 26 Soldiers, the Quartermasters stood alongside paratroopers from various other U.S. Army airborne units within Germany, Italy and the U.S. They were also joined by foreign airborne soldiers from England, Germany, Italy, France and the Netherlands. The paratroopers collectively marched in parades, attended ceremonies and provided an airborne presence at dedications and memorials.

Among the numerous memorial ceremonies in which the 5th QM participated were Pointe Du Hoc and Omaha Beach. Pointe Du Hoc was a point of attack by the U.S. Army Ranger Assault Group during Operation Overlord in World War II.

Omaha Beach is the code name for one of the five sectors of the Allied invasion of German-occupied France in the Normandy landings.

Taking part in the 67th Anniversary literally allowed the quartermasters the chance to walk in the same footprints as past paratroopers who fought on the beaches and in the cities during World War II.

“To be honest, it was chilling,” said Spc. Winston H. Cartier III, a parachute rigger with the 5th QM Det. and a native of the U. S. Virgin Islands. “When I was sitting on Omaha Beach I had goose bumps seeing the actual battle grounds where so many Soldiers fought and gave their lives.”

Even though the Quartermasters gladly took part in the remembrances and dedications, for the majority of the Soldiers the most anticipated part

of their trip was the re-enactment of the world’s most famous airborne drop, where they would get to jump into the very fields that hundreds of thousands of Soldiers jumped into 67 years ago. Just as it did 67 years ago, the weather cancelled the airborne drop on June 5. This year, however, the paratroopers were not able to postpone and simply drop in the next day, as those in Operation Overlord did so many years ago. Ultimately the drop was entirely cancelled this year, but the enthusiasm of the crowds for all of the other commemoration activities seemed to carry through.

“I was really looking forward to the jump so I am a little disappointed that it was cancelled, but that’s ok because I still got the chance to be here and take part in history and a once in a lifetime opportunity,” said Cartier.

## 18th MP Best Warrior competition takes it back to basics



Under a watchful eye, U.S. Army Sgt. James Byrnes, a native of Green Bay, Wisc., and a team leader with the 615th Military Police Company, makes his way across one of the many obstacles on a course during the 18th MP Brigade’s Warrior and Warrior Leader of the Year competition May 1-3 in Baumholder, Germany. Byrnes was named the Warrior Leader of the Year for the 18th MP Brigade. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Adrienne Burns, 18th Military Police Brigade Public

## 21st TSC hosts Korean Arms Verification Agency



Juergen Mohrhardt (pointing), a site escort with the Supply Activity Europe, leads Maj. Chang Won Jung and Col. Sung Wook Lim, both members of the Korean Arms Verification Team as well as Lt. Col. David Wiseman (background) and Master Sgt. David Ratuszny (foreground) of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, while Peter Mock, an observer with U.S. Army Europe's Security Cooperation Division, looks on. The group participated in a training exercise at SAE, which falls under the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's Theater Logistics Support Center-Europe, May 17. For the KAVA team from South Korea it was the first Conventional Armed Forces in Europe training inspection and event in Germany. (Photo by Donald Bowles, U.S. Army Europe, Treaty Compliance Branch)

*Story by Angelika Lantz, 21st TSC Public Affairs*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – Absolutely no coloring outside the box allowed. When the Supply Activity Europe, which falls under the Theater Logistics Support Center-Europe, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, hosted the Korean Arms Verification Agency inspection team here, May 17 and 18, every aspect of the visit was regulated.

While it was a historic first to have a South Korean inspection team involved with a Conventional Armed Forces in Europe inspection, the SAE is a well-versed veteran of the annual arms evaluation and inspection process. Additionally, the KAVA visit was not a bona-fide inspection but a training exercise. However, established protocol was followed every step of the way.

“U.S. organizations here in Europe are subject to a number of treaties and agreements. The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe was originally

established between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Warsaw Pact countries in the 1990s,” said Donald Bowles, a treaty compliance officer with the treaty compliance branch at U.S. Army in Europe.

Since 2007, the treaty has been expanded to cover 30 signatory states. It was established to reduce and balance inventory levels for five categories of offensive conventional armaments.

“Treaty-limited equipment categories include battle tanks, armored combat vehicles, artillery, combat aircraft and attack helicopters,” said Robert Bringman, an arms control policy specialist also with USAREUR's treaty compliance branch.

With transparency and parity in mind, the signatory states exchange information to report the number and locations of the subject equipment on an annual basis and CFE inspections verify the accuracy of the reported data.

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“Having training inspections keeps everyone on their toes and maintains the skills of the site personnel, which actually is no problem here at SAE anyway,” Bowles said.

Bringman and Bowles agree that SAE was the best place for the KAVA training exercise.

“We love coming to K-town. There is so much training involved in getting everyone up to speed on the CFE regulations and procedures, but here the program seems to run by itself. Unlike other organizations, SAE has very little turnover and everyone has been through the inspection process. It makes our job so much easier,” Bringman said.

Exercise or the real deal, the inspection process is extremely regulated. Procedures such as limiting the time allowed for briefings or lunch, setting a rigid briefing format, detailing how the administrative area for the visiting team is equipped, establishing which site an inspector enters a vehicle first and where a person will be seated during transportation are all observed.

“The object is for all teams to have the same set of

rules. No matter where they come from or whom they inspect, they need to be on equal footing,” said John Galimore, the director of SAE. “This is a one-day deal and the objective is to allow the maximum time for the actual on-site inspections, not take it up with briefings or meals.”

“This type of inspection builds confidence that what we report is true. That we have no secrets and that we do not hide anything,” Bowles said.

Galimore explained that during the exercise, the two-meter rule was observed as during an actual inspection.

“All two-meter-wide doors and containers measuring two meters high, two meters wide and two meters deep are considered key access points, since they could hide the smallest piece of equipment,” Galimore said.

This was the first training exercise in Germany for the KAVA team, which consisted of a director and nine inspectors, and under the circumstances they performed extremely well according to Galimore.

“They did an amazing job and yet were able to return with a number of lesson learned,” Galimore said.

## 21st TSC Soldiers earn German Marksmanship Badges



Staff Sgt. Carolin Gonsior, a training room non-commissioned officer for the German Joint Support Command, observes the target as Staff Sgt. Obed Henry, a materiel manager for the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, fires a German G36 assault rifle during a German proficiency badge range at General Delius Kaserne in Mayen, Germany, May 11. The Soldiers from the 21st TSC earned a total of 24 gold, 16 silver, and six bronze Schuetzenschnur marksmanship awards. (Photo by Sgt. Frank Sanchez III, 21st TSC Public Affairs)