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Soldiers, contractors set up living area to support Normandy commemoration

SAINTE MERE EGLISE, France -- Soldiers from U.S. Army Europe's 21st Theater Sustainment Command and contractors began arriving here May 17 to set up the Life Support Area for the hundreds of servicemembers who will be arriving soon to support events commemorating the 65th anniversary of the D-Day invasion.

When allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944, Sainte Mere Eglise was the first town in western Europe to be liberated.

Getting the LSA here ready for servicemembers arriving from Germany, Italy and the United States to support nearly two dozen ceremonies and other events in honor of D-Day took a lot of coordination among Soldiers, contractors and local citizens and community leaders.

“There was a lot of cooperation between the German contractors, the French citizens here and the Soldiers. The French interpreters helped a lot with the locals as far as the things we needed locally,” said Sgt. 1st Class Theresa Fallon, medical operations NCO-in-charge for the LSA.

The LSA, set up to accommodate 700-800 Soldiers, includes sleeping areas; a dining facility that will serve breakfast and dinner provided by a local contractor; and an aid station staffed with 10 medics, a battalion surgeon from the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team and an internal medicine doctor.

Many of the Soldiers and contractors who will be living in the LSA said being able to support the D-Day veterans is the most important part of the 65th commemoration.



SGT FAY CONROY

Sgt. Rachid Lamrissi of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command helps set up cots in Life Support Area for Task Force Normandy 65, in Sainte Mere Eglise, France, May 27. The LSA is designed to accommodate 700-800 servicemembers and contractor personnel who will soon arrive in Normandy to support events honoring the 65th anniversary of D-Day.

“This is the first time that 21st TSC has been tasked to do this. It’s a big thing for me. I’m glad ... I was given an opportunity to be a part of it,” said Gerhard Mehrbreier, an equipment specialist with Theater Logistics Support Center - Europe.



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