



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

News Release

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VA Secretary Shinseki Marks D-Day Anniversary in France *Joins President Obama in Tribute to Veterans of Normandy Invasion*

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki joins President Obama in honoring the bravery of those who stormed the beaches of Normandy 65 years ago in a commemorative visit to France this weekend.

Secretary Shinseki will also attend a ceremony hosted by the French government on Friday night in Paris where France will honor Veterans of World War II with the French Legion of Honor. The Secretary also is a recipient of this award.

D-Day ceremonies on Saturday, June 6 -- the 65th anniversary of the Normandy invasion that was a turning point in the war against Nazi forces -- will be held at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial. The cliff-top cemetery is located in Colleville-sur-Mer, Normandy, overlooking Omaha Beach.

The cemetery is the resting place for more than 9,300 military dead, most of whom lost their lives in the D-Day landings and ensuing operations.

Secretary Shinseki will travel with Veterans to Normandy to attend the D-Day ceremonies. In addition to a speech from President Obama, the anniversary events will include remarks from French President Nicolas Sarkozy, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

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