

A Little History of the 557th

Yes, there is quite a history relating to the 557th, the St. Andre Aerial Support Center, and our later operations at Lee Barracks, Mainz. The 557th's relationship with the 513th Troop Carrier Wing at Evreux-Fauville AFB, where we were located, was very unique because typically we had weekly C-130 heavy drops, unconventional training mission resupply drops using C-47 and STOL, single aircraft, as well as troop jumps from a variety of aircraft. I believe that the assignment gave the more experienced members the opportunity to apply and perfect their skills in a realist operational environment and the lower ranks were able to become proficient and gain first-hand experience and guidance from the seasoned unit leadership. We also had our share of "personalities" who never failed to inject humor or caution into the most troublesome situations. All toll, the assignment in the 557th provided the member an opportunity to experience professionalism at its best and obtain a foundation in leadership skills and gain proficiency in their chosen specialties. I believe that the majority of unit achieved their goals later in either the military or civilian life.

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