

ST MIHIEL SUB DEPOT

LINEAGE

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

St. Mihiel, located in the Meuse Department, is 172 miles (274 km) east of Paris and 18 miles (29 km) south of Autoroute A4 on Department Route D964. The St. Mihiel Sub-Depot (48° 53'N - 05° 34'E) was located in a French Army Caserne on the southeast edge of the city on route D907.

St. Mihiel was established in summer 1951 as the aircraft munitions specialized sub-depot of Chateauroux Air Depot to support the fighter air bases in northeastern France. This sub-depot was operated by 73d Air Depot Wing, CAMAE, from September 1951 until January 1967. St. Mihiel Air Station, Annex #2689, was offered by France for our use in February 1951. This facility had been the French Infantry Caserne de Senarmont built in 1887. Approximately eighteen large structures had housed an infantry battalion and its horse drawn wagons. This caserne was used by the U.S. Third Army in its drive east to the Moselle River in the fall of 1944. The structures needed repairs and new construction to get the sub-depot in operating condition. Depot personnel operated in temporary facilities until the warehouse, offices, motor maintenance shop, and munitions training buildings were finished in June 1954. A munitions

repair building with 3,800 square feet of shop space was constructed in 1956. Finally twenty-two buildings comprised the sub-depot. A second annex was developed as part of the sub-depot, the St. Mihiel Ammunition Storage Annex #8446, a conventional ammunition storage site. The St. Mihiel property and buildings were officially accepted from France and dedicated on 18 September 1953. In January 1953 the 75th Ammunition Supply Sq arrived from CONUS to operate the new sub-depot. Later this unit changed designation to the 7372d Ammunition Supply Sq.

The mission of the 7372d Ammunition Supply Sq, as stated in Twelfth Air Force Regulation 23-49 was: "To receive, store, issue, inspect, renovate, and dispose of base level ammunition stocks and explosive items of Air Force Stock Class 39B; and to assist other ammunition sites as directed in the handling, movement, and storage of ammunition." In 1956 the 7372d Ammunition Supply Sq was redesignated the 3139th Ammunition Supply Sq with the same mission.

The St. Mihiel depot manning on 1 January 1957 consisted of 6 officers, 159 airmen, 2 DAF civilians, and 212 French personnel. The ammunition squadron also provided logistical support to three attached units. Det #14, 12th Postal Sq operated a small post office, APO #188, Detachment #27, 8th Radio Relay Squadron maintained the, OL G-II, microwave station, and Detachment #1, 7410th EOD Squadron disposed of outdated explosive bolts, pylon ejectors, and aircraft seat/canopy charges, as well as removing aircraft ordnance from accident sites. From 1954 to 1966, the St. Mihiel sub-depot received logistical support from Toul AB located twenty-five miles to the east. The 465th TCWg, the 50th FBWg, and later the 7544th Combat Support Gp provided all required services. This support was always coordinated with Chateauroux Air Depot Base Services, located 360 miles away.

The St. Mihiel Sub-Depot, as well as the other sub-depots, were transferred between the USAF Air Material Command (AMC) and USAFE during their operations in France. These transactions were primarily done to switch the operational costs to different major air command budgets. For instance, the St. Mihiel sub-depot was initially built and operated under the direction of AMC Europe. Then it was assigned to Twelfth Air Force, effective 1 January 1956, under authority of General Order #94, Headquarters USAFE, Wiesbaden, West Germany, dated 12 December 1955. Then on 1 January 1958, St Mihiel was transferred by USAFE back to the USAF Air Material Command, Central Air Material Area Europe. On 1 November 1962 the USAF Logistic Command, formerly AMC, transferred St. Mihiel back to USAFE. In mid 1961, USAFE offered the sub-depot to the U.S. Army for its use, but USAFE was directed to maintain ownership and control of this sub-depot. Det #1, 7374th Ammunition Supply Sq remained at the St. Mihiel depot to assist the Army.

On 31 January 1967, St. Mihiel Administration Annex #2689 and the St. Mihiel Ammunition Storage Annex #8446 were transferred to the Military Liquidation Section in Paris. These were the first major USAFE installations to be turned over to the MLS and returned to France as part of Project FRELOC. As of 1997 the former caserne and surrounding real estate are in commercial use. St. Mihiel is accessible from Paris by train from Gare de l'Est. It can be found on Michelin Map 313 Local, and IGN Series Blue #32140.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources