

## 56th Force Support Squadron

### Lineage.

Designated Squadron "D", 56th Airdrome Group,  
on 27 July 1947.<sup>1</sup>

Organized on 15 August 1947.

Discontinued on 1 August 1948.

Consolidated (10 October 1984) with the  
56th Food Service Squadron.

Constituted as 56th Food Service Squadron,  
Fighter, Jet, on 14 June 1948.

Activated on 1 August 1948.

Redesignated 56th Food Service Squadron on  
20 January 1950.

Inactivated on 6 February 1952.

Consolidated (10 October 1984) with the 56th  
Services Squadron.

Constituted, and activated, on 16 March 1967.

Organized on 8 April 1967.<sup>2</sup>

Inactivated on 28 February 1975.

Activated on 30 June 1975.<sup>3</sup>

Redesignated 56th Morale, Welfare, Recreation and Services Squadron on 4 September 1992.<sup>4</sup>

Inactivated on 4 January 1994.<sup>5</sup>

Redesignated 56th Services Squadron on 21 March 1994.

Activated on 1 April 1994.<sup>6</sup>

Redesignated 56th Force Support Squadron on 26 February 2009.<sup>7</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> 56 FW GO-1, c. 15 August 1947

<sup>2</sup> PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

<sup>3</sup> TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975

<sup>4</sup> ACC SO GB-124, 21 August 1992

<sup>5</sup> ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

<sup>6</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

<sup>7</sup> AETC SO G-09-9, 26 February 2009

## **Honors.**

### ***Campaign Streamers.***

#### **Vietnam**

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II [1967-1968]  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III [1968]<sup>8</sup>  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV [1968-1969]  
Tet 1969 Counteroffensive [1969]  
Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969 [1969]  
Vietnam Winter/Spring 1970 [1969-1970]<sup>9</sup>  
Sanctuary Counteroffensive [1970]  
Southwest Monsoon [1970]<sup>10</sup>  
Commando Hunt V [1970-1971]<sup>11</sup>  
Commando Hunt VI [1971]<sup>12</sup>  
Commando Hunt VII [1971-1972]<sup>13</sup>  
Vietnam Cease Fire [1972-1973]<sup>14</sup>

## **Decorations.**

### **Presidential Unit Citations**

Southeast Asia 1 November 1968-1 May 1969<sup>15</sup>  
Southeast Asia 1 October 1969-30 April 1970<sup>16</sup>  
Southeast Asia 1 April 1972-22 February 1973.<sup>17</sup>

### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Award**

1 June 1970-31 May 1971 with Combat "V" Device<sup>18</sup>  
1 December 1971-29 February 1972 with Combat "V" Device<sup>19</sup>  
23 February 1973-28 February 1974 with Combat "V" Device<sup>20</sup>  
1 January 1977-1 January 1979<sup>21</sup>  
1 July 1980-31 May 1982<sup>22</sup>  
1 June 1984-31 May 1986<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> PACAF SO G-184, 30 July 1969

<sup>9</sup> PACAF SO G-352, 14 June 1971

<sup>10</sup> PACAF SO GB-0019, 31 January 1974

<sup>11</sup> PACAF SO GB-0022, 31 January 1974

<sup>12</sup> PACAF SO GB-0025, 31 January 1974

<sup>13</sup> PACAF SO GB-0027, 31 January 1974

<sup>14</sup> PACAF SO GB-0187, 15 July 1974

<sup>15</sup> DAF SO GB-552/1970

<sup>16</sup> DAF SO GB-352, 14 June 1971

<sup>17</sup> DAF SO GB-046, 20 January 1977

<sup>18</sup> DAF SO GB-703, 9 November 1971

<sup>19</sup> DAF SO GB-553, 31 July 1973

<sup>20</sup> DAF SO GB-600, 17 July 1975

<sup>21</sup> DAF SO GB-719, 30 November 1979

<sup>22</sup> DAF SO GB-117, 22 February 1983

<sup>23</sup> DAF SO GB-275/1987

**Decorations. (Continued)**

**Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (Continued)**

1 May 1987-30 April 1989<sup>24</sup>  
1 May 1990-30 April 1991<sup>25</sup>  
1 July 1994-30 June 1996<sup>26</sup>  
1 July 1996-30 June 1998<sup>27</sup>  
1 July 1998-30 June 2000<sup>28</sup>  
1 July 2001-30 June 2003<sup>29</sup>  
[1 July] 2003-30 June 2005<sup>30</sup>  
1 July 2005-30 June 2006<sup>31</sup>  
1 July 2006-30 June 2007<sup>32</sup>  
1 July 2007-30 June 2008<sup>33</sup>  
1 July 2008-30 June 2009<sup>34</sup>  
1 July 2009-30 June 2010<sup>35</sup>  
1 July 2010-30 June 2011<sup>36</sup>  
1 July 2011-30 June 2012<sup>37</sup>  
1 July 2012-30 June 2013<sup>38</sup>  
1 July 2013-30 June 2014<sup>39</sup>  
1 July 2014-30 June 2015<sup>40</sup>  
1 July 2015-30 June 2016<sup>41</sup>

***Special Honors.***

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm: 8 April 1967-28 January 1973.

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<sup>24</sup> TAC SO GA-053, 29 August 1989

<sup>25</sup> TAC SO GA-069, 26 September 1991

<sup>26</sup> AETC SO GA-18, 15 November 1996

<sup>27</sup> AETC SO GA-12, 9 November 1998

<sup>28</sup> AETC SO GA-9, 8 December 2000

<sup>29</sup> AETC SO GA-55, 29 April 2004

<sup>30</sup> AETC SO GA-0052, 22 June 2006

<sup>31</sup> AETC SO GA-045, 8 May 2007

<sup>32</sup> AETC SO G-054, 28 February 2008

<sup>33</sup> AETC SO G-071, 3 April 2009

<sup>34</sup> AETC SO G-025, 11 March 2010

<sup>35</sup> AETC SO G-086, 9 May 2011

<sup>36</sup> AETC SO G-171, 17 April 2012

<sup>37</sup> AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013

<sup>38</sup> AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014

<sup>39</sup> AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015

<sup>40</sup> AETC SO G-006, 14 October 2016

<sup>41</sup> AETC SO G-022, 22 March 2017

**Assignments.** 56th Airdrome Group 27 July 1947-1 August 1948. 56th Air Base Group, 1 August 1948-6 February 1952. 56th Combat Support 8 April 1967<sup>42</sup>-28 February 1975. 56th Combat Support (later, 56th Support) Group 30 June 1975-4 January 1994<sup>43</sup>; 56th Support (later, 56th Mission Support) Group 1 April 1994-<sup>44</sup>

**Stations.** Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan, 15 August 1947-6 February 1952. Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, 8 April 1967<sup>45</sup>-28 February 1975. MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, 30 June 1975-4 January 1994.<sup>46</sup> Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 1 April 1994-<sup>47</sup>

**Aircraft.** None.

**Emblem.** Approved on 11 March 2003

**Blazon.** On a disc per fess Azure and Vert, in base a garland of wheat crescent the stems in saltire Or, below a bull regardant Gules, in sinister chief a mullet counterchanged of the third and fourth, all within a narrow border Yellow.

Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "CRADLE TO GRAVE" in Yellow letters.

Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "56TH FORCE SUPPORT SQ" in Yellow letters.

**Motto.** CRADLE TO GRAVE.

**Significance.** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The garland of wheat symbolizes the unit's largest focus, food service. The bull signifies strength and readiness. The star stands for the five core areas of the mission, food services, fitness, lodging, readiness and mortuary operations

**Commanders.**

***Squadron "D", 56th Airdrome Group [15 August 1947-1 August 1948]***

Unknown	15 August 1947-1 August 1948.
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***56th Food Service Squadron, Fighter, Jet [1 August 1948-20 January 1950]***

Unknown	1 August 1948
Capt Edward C. Unger	bef 30 November 1948
Unknown	Unknown-20 January 1950.

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<sup>42</sup> PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

<sup>43</sup> TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975; ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

<sup>44</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994; AETC SO G-02-20, 23 June 2002

<sup>45</sup> PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

<sup>46</sup> TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975; ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

<sup>47</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

**Commanders. (Continued)**

**56th Food Service Squadron [20 January 1950-6 February 1952]**

Unknown 20 January 1950-6 February 1952.

**56th Services Squadron [8 April 1967-28 February 1975;**

**30 June 1975-1 September 1992]**

Maj Donald D. Trimble	8 April 1967
Capt Richard J. Tessier	bef 30 September 1967
Capt James P. Davison	bef 31 December 1967
Unknown	Unknown
Capt James F. Wise	bef 31 March 1969
Capt Charles D. McKenzie	bef 31 December 1969
Maj Albert N. Turner	bef 30 September 1970
Maj Byron L. Carroll	bef 31 December 1970
Lt Col Joseph J. O'Hara	bef 31 March 1971
Capt Allen B. Alexander, Jr.	bef 30 September 1971
Capt Phillip T. Shealy	bef 31 December 1972
Capt Rodney P. Harrison	28 September 1973
Capt W. R. Guevara	5 March 1974
Maj Lewis A. Elam	bef 31 March 1974
Capt Thomas S. Summers	11 June 1974
Maj Norwood. J. Meche	6 September 1974
Capt Thomas S. Summers	bef 31 December 1974- 28 February 1975
Lt Col D. W. Ottoway	30 June 1975
Maj Norwood. J. Meche	15 August 1975 <sup>48</sup>
Lt Col David B. Bates	19 July 1977
Capt Donald N. Jones	1 March 1979
Lt Col David B. Bates	6 July 1979
Capt Donald B. Jones	14 May 1980
Maj (later, Lt Col) Phillip T. Shealy	1 July 1980
Maj Harold H. Holden	18 May 1984 <sup>49</sup>
1st Lt Alvin J. Heggem	5 June 1986
Lt Col Thomas B. Fletcher	9 July 1986 <sup>50</sup>
Maj Sharon Hines-Marquis	27 February 1990 <sup>51</sup>
Maj John C. McClelland	5 September 1991-1 September 1992

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<sup>48</sup> 56 CSG SO G-5, 7 October 1975

<sup>49</sup> 56 CSG G-7, 18 May 1984

<sup>50</sup> 56 CSG SO G-47, 8 July 1986

<sup>51</sup> 56 MSS SO G-003, 23 February 1990

**Commanders. (Continued)**

***56th Morale, Welfare, Recreation and Services Squadron [1 September 1992-4 January 1994.***

Maj John C. McClelland	1 September 1992
Lt Col Warren J. Brookhart	June 1993-4 January 1994.

***56th Services Squadron [1 April 1994-26 February 2009]***

Lt Col Jack L. Baily, Jr.	1 April 1994 <sup>52</sup>
Maj Lynne D. Bitler	5 May 1994 <sup>53</sup>
Lt Col Claude C. Braley	10 June 1994 <sup>54</sup>
Lt Col Ron L. Winkel	7 June 1996 <sup>55</sup>
Maj Anne F. Fitch	24 June 1999 <sup>56</sup>
Lt Col Patricia M. Carpenter	11 June 2001 <sup>57</sup>
Lt Col Alan C. Gnann	15 July 2003 <sup>58</sup>
Lt Col Dane D. Matthew	23 June 2005 <sup>59</sup>
Maj William M.G. Manley	23 July 2007 <sup>60</sup> -26 February 2009

***56th Forces Support Squadron [26 February 2009-.]***

Maj William M.G. Manley	26 February 2009
Maj Carol Gordon	27 February 2009 <sup>61</sup>
Maj Rodney J. Nichols	11 June 2009 <sup>62</sup>
Maj (later, Lt Col) Timothy A. Farr	6 July 2011 <sup>63</sup>
Lt Col Todd P. Ladd	10 June 2013 <sup>64</sup> .
Maj (later, Lt Col) Tonya Y. Mack	17 July 2015-Present. <sup>65</sup>
Maj Maritzel G. Castrellon	29 June 2017-Present. <sup>66</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> 58 MSS SO SO-GS-001, 6 October 1992

<sup>53</sup> 56 SVS SO SO-GS-003, 18 May 1994

<sup>54</sup> 56 SVS SO SO-GS-005, 13 June 1994

<sup>55</sup> 56 SG, SO SO-GS-003, 5 June 1996

<sup>56</sup> 56 FW SO GS-99-01, 23 June 1999

<sup>57</sup> 56 FW SO GS-01-02, 11 June 2001

<sup>58</sup> 56 SVS SO 56 SVS G-2003-1, 8 July 2003

<sup>59</sup> 56 SVS SO 56 SVS-G-05-01, 8 June 2005

<sup>60</sup> 56 MSG SO MSG-07-11, 5 June 2007

<sup>61</sup> 56 MSG SO G-025, 24 April 2009

<sup>62</sup> 56 FSS SO G-032, 10 June 2009

<sup>63</sup> 56 MDG SO G-019, 6 July 2011

<sup>64</sup> 56 MSG SO GS-18, 10 June 2013

<sup>65</sup> 56 MSG SO GS-14-15, 7 July 2015

<sup>66</sup> 56 MSG SO G-18-17, 15 June 2017

**Narrative.**

The 56th Force Support Squadron's lineage makes it one of the oldest units in the wing. On 27 July 1947, it was designated the Squadron "D", 56th Airdrome Group. It was organized on 15 August 1947, at Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan, and assigned to the 56th Airdrome Group. On 1 August 1948, the unit was discontinued.

It was replaced with the 56th Food Service Squadron, Fighter, Jet, which was constituted on 14 June 1948. On 10 October 1948, the Air Force consolidated those two units with a third squadron. On 1 August 1948, the 56th Food Service Squadron, Fighter, Jet, was assigned to the 56th Air Base Group. On 20 January 1950, it was redesignated as the 56th Food Service Squadron. It was inactivated on 6 February 1952.

The third squadron, the 56th Services Squadron was constituted and activated on 16 March 1967, and organized on 8 April 1967 at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. It was assigned to the 56th Combat Support. It inactivated on 28 February 1975. While in Thailand, the squadron earned 12 Campaign Streamers, 3 Presidential Unit Citations, 3 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device, and a Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.

On 30 June 1975, it reactivated at MacDill AFB, Florida, and was assigned to the 56th Combat Support (later, 56th Support) Group. On 4 September 1992, the unit was redesignated as the 56th Morale, Welfare, Recreation and Services Squadron. It inactivated on 4 January 1994.

On 21 March 1994, it was redesignated the 56th Services Squadron. The unit reactivated on 1 April 1994 at Luke AFB, Arizona, and reported to the 56th Support (later, 56th Mission Support) Group. On 26 February 2009, the unit absorbed the personnel, equipment, and facilities of the 56th Mission Support Squadron and was redesignated 56th Force Support Squadron.

**Locally Updated** 1 September 2017

**Locally Updated by** Rick Griset