

56th Communications Squadron

Lineage.

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

Activated on 1 August 1948.

Redesignated 56th Communications Squadron on
20 January 1950.

Inactivated on 6 February 1952.

Activated on 1 October 1991.¹

Inactivated on 4 January 1994.²

Activated 1 April 1994.³

Honors.

Decorations.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

- 1 July 1994-30 June 1996⁴
- 1 July 1996-30 June 1998⁵
- 1 July 1998-30 June 2000⁶
- 1 July 2001-30 June 2003⁷
- [1 July] 2003-30 June 2005⁸
- 1 July 2005-30 June 2006⁹
- 1 July 2006-30 June 2007¹⁰
- 1 July 2007-30 June 2008¹¹
- 1 July 2008-30 June 2009¹²
- 1 July 2009-30 June 2010¹³
- 1 July 2010-30 June 2011¹⁴



¹ TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991

² ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

³ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

⁴ AETC SO GA-18, 15 November 1996

⁵ AETC SO GA-12, 9 November 1998

⁶ AETC SO GA-9, 8 December 2000

⁷ AETC SO GA-55, 29 April 2004

⁸ AETC SO GA-0052, 22 June 2006

⁹ AETC SO GA-045, 8 May 2007

¹⁰ AETC SO G-054, 28 February 2008

¹¹ AETC SO G-071, 3 April 2009

¹² AETC SO G-025, 11 March 2010

¹³ AETC SO G-086, 9 May 2011

¹⁴ AETC SO G-171, 17 April 2012

Decorations. (Continued)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (Continued)

1 July 2011-30 June 2012¹⁵

1 July 2012-30 June 2013¹⁶

1 July 2013-30 June 2014¹⁷

1 July 2014-30 June 2015¹⁸

1 July 2015-30 June 2016¹⁹

Assignments. 56th Air Base Group, 1 August 1948-6 February 1952. 56th Combat Support (later, 56th Support) Group, 1 October 1991²⁰-1 January 1994. 56th Support (later, 56th Mission Support) Group on 1 April 1994-.²¹

Stations. Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan, 1 August 1948-6 February 1952. MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, 1 October 1991²²-4 January 1994. Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 1 April 1994-.²³

Aircraft. None.

Emblem. Approved on 8 May 1998

Blazon. On a disc Azure, four lightning flashes issuant from chief pile wise Or, surmounted by a bat, wings displayed Proper, eyes Gules, all within a narrow border Black.

Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "56th COMMUNICATIONS SQ" in Black letters.

Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "LOQUIMINI TONITRUM" in Black letters.

Motto. Loquimini Tonitrum. [Beware the Thunderbolt]

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 four lightning flashes signify the four operational environments: land, sea, air and space. They also represent all forms of communication, as depicted on the Air Force Communications and Information occupational badge. The bat, noted

¹⁵ AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013

¹⁶ AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014

¹⁷ AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015

¹⁸ AETC SO G-006, 14 October 2016

¹⁹ AETC SO G-022, 22 March 2017

²⁰ TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991

²¹ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994; AETC SO G-02-20, 23 June 2002

²² TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991

²³ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

for its sophisticated communication system, symbolizes the importance of communications to the Air Force mission. All elements combined reinforce the motto, *Loquimini Tonitrum*,” translated as “Beware the Thunderbolt.”

Commanders.

***56th Communications Squadron, Fighter, Jet* [1 August 1948-20 January 1950]**

Unknown

Unknown

***56th Communications Squadron* [20 January 1950-6 February 1952; 1 October 1991-4 January 1994; 1 April 1994-.]**

Unknown

Unknown

Col Robert Popp

by December 1991

Col Doreen M. Wolf

January 1992

Lt Col John C. Goodman

18 June 1992-4 January 1994

Lt Col Stanley D. Howard

1 April 1994²⁴

Maj Robert J. Steele

4 August 1994²⁵

Lt Col Wilson D. Crafton

1 July 1997²⁶

Lt Col Jeffrey A. Corvey

2 June 1999²⁷

Lt Col Frank Knickerbocker, IV

12 June 2001²⁸

Lt Col Eric J. Pierce

8 July 2003²⁹

Lt Col Timothy J. Pearson

9 June 2005³⁰

Maj Rashone J. Tate

5 June 2007³¹

Lt Col David Hillman

22 June 2009³²

Maj (later, Lt Col) Zachary S. Warakomski

8 April 2011³³

Maj Raymond H. Chester, Jr.

14 June 2013³⁴

Maj (later, Lt Col) Lewis G. Sorvillo

5 June 2015³⁵

Maj Nathaniel L. Edwards

19 June 2017-Present.³⁶

²⁴ [58 MSS SO SO-G-7, 1 October 1991]

²⁵ 56 CS SO SO-GQ-2, 4 August 1994

²⁶ 56 CS SO SO-G-9701, c. 30 June 1997

²⁷ 56 CS SO GS-002, 27 April 1999

²⁸ 56 CS SO OS-TQ-002, 7 May 2001

²⁹ 56 CS SO 56 CS-G-2003-1, 7 July 2003

³⁰ 56 CS SO 56 CS GS-01, 8 June 2005

³¹ 56 MSG SO MSG-07-06, 5 June 2007

³² 56 MSG SO G-027, 22 June 2009

³³ 56 MSG SO G-004, 8 April 2011

³⁴ 56 MSG SO GS-14, 14 June 2013

³⁵ 56 MSG SO GS-07-15, 5 May 2015

³⁶ 56 MSG SO G-08-17, 5 May 2017

Narrative.

Constituted on 14 June 1948, the 56th Communications Squadron, Fighter, Jet, activated on 1 August 1948 at Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan, assigned to the 56th Air Base Group. On 20 January 1950, it was redesignated as the 56th Communications Squadron. It inactivated on 6 February 1952.

The squadron reactivated on 1 October 1991 at MacDill AFB, Florida, and was assigned to the 56th Combat Support (later, 56th Support) Group. The unit inactivated on 4 January 1994.

On 1 April 1994, it reactivated at Luke AFB, Arizona, under the 56th Support (later, 56th Mission Support) Group. Today the squadron provides, operates, and maintains communications resources to facilitate training the world's finest F-16 fighter pilots and maintainers, while deploying mission ready warfighters.

Locally Updated 1 September 2017

Locally Updated by Rick Griset