

56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Lineage.

Designated Maintenance Squadron,
56th Maintenance and Supply Group, on
28 July 1947.

Organized on 15 August 1947.
Discontinued on 1 August 1948.

Consolidated (22 October 1984) with the
56th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance
Squadron constituted on 17 June 1957.

Constituted on 17 June 1957.
Activated on 8 September 1957.
Discontinued, and inactivated, on 1 January 1964.¹

Activated on 15 July 1974.²
Inactivated on 30 June 1975.

Consolidated (22 October 1984) with the 56th Maintenance Squadron, Fighter, Jet,
Constituted on 14 June 1948.
Activated 1 August 1948.
Redesignated 56th Maintenance Squadron on 20 January 1950.
Inactivated 6 February 1952.

Redesignated 56th Field Maintenance Squadron, and activated, on 16 March 1967.
Organized on 8 April 1967.³
Inactivated on 15 July 1974.⁴

Activated on 30 June 1975.⁵
Redesignated 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron on 15 June 1977.
Redesignated 56th Maintenance Squadron on 1 November 1991.⁶
Inactivated on 4 January 1994.⁷

Redesignated 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron on 21 March 1994.
Activated on 1 April 1994.⁸



¹ AFOMO 90n, 16 September 1963 and SAC SO G-82, 25 September 1963

² PACAF SO GA-20, 17 June 1974

³ PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

⁴ PACAF SO GA-20, 17 June 1974

⁵ TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975

⁶ TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991

⁷ ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

⁸ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

Honors.

Campaign Streamers.

Vietnam

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II [1967-1968]
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III [1968]⁹
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV [1968-1969]
Tet 1969 Counteroffensive [1969]
Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969 [1969]
Vietnam Winter/Spring 1970 [1969-1970]¹⁰
Sanctuary Counteroffensive [1970]
Southwest Monsoon [1970]¹¹
Commando Hunt V [1970-1971]¹²
Commando Hunt VI [1971]¹³
Commando Hunt VII [1971-1972]¹⁴
Vietnam Cease Fire [1972-1973]¹⁵

Decorations.

Presidential Unit Citation

Southeast Asia 1 November 1968-1 May 1969¹⁶
Southeast Asia 1 October 1969-30 April 1970¹⁷
Southeast Asia 1 April 1972-22 February 1973

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award:

1 December 1970-30 November 1971 with Combat "V" Device¹⁸
1 December 1971-29 February 1972 with Combat "V" Device¹⁹
23 February 1973-28 February 1974 with Combat "V" Device²⁰
1 January 1977-1 January 1979²¹
1 July 1980-31 May 1982²²
1 June 1984-31 May 1986²³

⁹ PACAF SO G-184, 30 July 1969

¹⁰ PACAF SO G-352, 14 June 1971

¹¹ PACAF SO GB-0019, 31 January 1974

¹² PACAF SO GB-0022, 31 January 1974

¹³ PACAF SO GB-0025, 31 January 1974

¹⁴ PACAF SO GB-0027, 31 January 1974

¹⁵ PACAF SO GB-0187, 15 July 1974

¹⁶ DAF SO GB-552/1970

¹⁷ DAF SO GB-352, 14 June 1971

¹⁸ DAF SO GB-667, 28 September 1972

¹⁹ DAF SO GB-553, 31 July 1973

²⁰ DAF SO GB-600, 17 July 1975

²¹ DAF SO GB-719, 30 November 1979

²² DAF SO GB-117, 22 February 1983

²³ DAF SO GB-275/1987

Decorations. (Continued)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (Continued)

1 May 1987-30 April 1989²⁴
1 May 1989-30 April 1990²⁵
1 May 1990-30 April 1991²⁶
1 July 1994-30 June 1996²⁷
1 July 1996-30 June 1998²⁸
1 July 1998-30 June 2000²⁹
1 July 2001-30 June 2003³⁰
[1 July] 2003-30 June 2005³¹
1 July 2005-30 June 2006³²
1 July 2006-30 June 2007³³
1 July 2007-30 June 2008³⁴
1 July 2008-30 June 2009³⁵
1 July 2009-30 June 2010³⁶
1 July 2010-30 June 2011³⁷
1 July 2011-30 June 2012³⁸
1 July 2012-30 June 2013³⁹
1 July 2013-30 June 2014⁴⁰
1 July 2014-30 June 2015⁴¹
1 July 2015-30 June 2016⁴²

Special Honors.

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross With Palm, 8 April 1967-28 January 1973.

²⁴ TAC SO GA-053, 29 August 1989
²⁵ TAC SO GA-048, 16 August 1990
²⁶ TAC SO GA-069, 26 September 1991
²⁷ AETC SO GA-18, 15 November 1996
²⁸ AETC SO GA-12, 9 November 1998
²⁹ AETC SO GA-9, 8 December 2000
³⁰ AETC SO GA-55, 29 April 2004
³¹ AETC SO GA-0052, 22 June 2006
³² AETC SO GA-045, 8 May 2007
³³ AETC SO G-054, 28 February 2008
³⁴ AETC SO G-071, 3 April 2009
³⁵ AETC SO G-025, 11 March 2010
³⁶ AETC SO G-086, 9 May 2011
³⁷ AETC SO G-171, 17 April 2012
³⁸ AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013
³⁹ AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014
⁴⁰ AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015
⁴¹ AETC SO G-006, 14 October 2016
⁴² AETC SO G-022, 22 March 2017

Assignments. 56th Maintenance and Supply Group 15 August 1947-1 August 1948. 56th Maintenance and Supply Group 1 August 1948-6 February 1952. 56th Fighter Group (Air Defense), 8 September 1957-31 January 1961⁴³; 56th Fighter Wing (Air Defense), 1 February 1961-1 January 1964.⁴⁴ 56th Air Commando (later, 56th Special Operations) Wing 8 April 1967⁴⁵-30 June 1975. 56th Tactical Fighter (later, 56th Tactical Training, 56th Fighter) Wing, 30 June 1975⁴⁶-1 November 1991.⁴⁷ 56th Logistics Group, 1 November 1991⁴⁸-4 January 1994.⁴⁹ 56th Logistics (later, 56th Maintenance) Group, 1 April 1994-.⁵⁰

Stations. Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan, 15 August 1947-6 February 1952. O'Hare International Airport, Illinois, 8 September 1957; K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base, Michigan, 1 October 1959-1 January 1964.⁵¹ Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, 8 April 1967⁵²-30 June 1975. MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, 30 June 1975⁵³-4 January 1994.⁵⁴ Luke AFB, Arizona, 1 April 1994-.⁵⁵

Aircraft. None.

Emblem. Approved on 8 August 1977.

Blazon. On a blue disc edged with a narrow yellow border, three yellow triangles with points up, centered overall a blue triangle with point to base. Attached below the disc a blank yellow scroll.

Motto. None.

Significance. The large triangle on the ultramarine blue background symbolizes the integrity of the unit, working together towards a common goal. The three smaller Air Force yellow triangles symbolize the three major functional areas of the squadron: AGE, Maintenance, and Munitions. The ultramarine blue inverted triangle reminds each leader that he/she is charged to serve the unit's Airmen, whether military or civilian. The Air Force yellow border binds the unit with a strong commitment to quality, teamwork, and dedication to the mission.

⁴³ AFOMO 536m, 28 December 1960

⁴⁴ AFOMO 90n, 16 September 1963 and SAC SO G-82, 25 September 1963

⁴⁵ PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

⁴⁶ TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975

⁴⁷ TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991

⁴⁸ TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991

⁴⁹ ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

⁵⁰ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994; AETC SO G-02-20, 23 June 2002

⁵¹ AFOMO 90n, 16 September 1963 and SAC SO G-82, 25 September 1963

⁵² PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

⁵³ TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975

⁵⁴ ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

⁵⁵ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

Commanders.

Maintenance Squadron, 56th Maintenance and Supply Group

[15 August 1947-1 August 1948]

Unknown

Unknown

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

Unknown

Unknown

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

Unknown

Unknown

***56th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron* [8 September 1957-1 January 1964]**

Unknown

Unknown

Maj (later, Lt Col) Douglas W. Mauldin

bef 31 March 1963

Maj H.L. Bogdanski

26 April 1963

2d Lt Frederick J. Heyer

1 July 1963

Maj Paul A. Mickelsen

3 July 1963

***56th Field Maintenance Squadron* [8 April 1967-15 July 1974]**

Maj Winton W. Wilson

8 April 1967⁵⁶

Capt Robert N. Hancock

bef 30 August 1967

1st Lt Michael V. Flattery

bef 5 October 1967

Maj Albert S. Mercer

November 1967

Lt Col Richard J. Watson

bef 18 December 1968

Unknown

Unknown

Lt Col Harry E. Lyndes, Jr.

bef 30 June 1970

Lt Col John J. Byrne

bef 30 September 1970

Lt Col William N. Foster

bef 31 December 1970

Lt Col Joseph W. Norrbohm

c. 18 November 1971

Lt Col Robert B. Anderson

c. May 1972

Lt Col Willam R. Southerland

bef 31 March 1973

Capt James F. Brady

bef 10 September 1973

Maj Ronald W. Janssen

10 September 1973

Capt Robert L. Walters

18 May 1974⁵⁷

Maj Ronald W. Janssen

20 June 1974 – 15 July 1974.⁵⁸

⁵⁶ 56 FMS SO 1, 8 April 1967

⁵⁷ 56 FMS SO G-1, 13 May 1974

⁵⁸ 56 FMS SO G-3, 20 June 1974

56th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron [15 July 1974-30 June 1975].

Lt Col Wayne R. Bratcher	15 July 1974
Lt Col William H. Hester	13 February 1975
Col William H. Lewis	25 March 1975-30 June 1975

56th Field Maintenance Squadron [30 June 1975-15 June 1977]

Lt Col Richard J. Pouloit	30 June 1975
Lt Col Robert G. Carter	1 March 1977-15 June 1977 ⁵⁹

56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron [15 June 1977-1 November 1991]

Lt Col Robert G. Carter	15 June 1977
Lt Col Billy A. Barrett	31 December 1977
Lt Col Richard M. Higbie	1 June 1979 ⁶⁰
Maj Michael O. Mullikin	10 July 1981
Maj John T. Stephens	5 May 1983 ⁶¹
Lt Col Ferris O. Garrett, Jr.	5 August 1983 ⁶²
Lt Col James W. Geith	11 Nov 1983
Maj Devon L. Overmeyer, Jr.	5 December 1985
Maj Patrick M. Thayer	2 June 1986
Maj Donald J. Wetekam	10 July 1986 ⁶³ [Lieutenant General]
Maj Patrick M. Thayer	20 January 1987
Lt Col Peter R. Mooy	27 June 1988 ⁶⁴
Maj Donald H. Campbell	13 June 1990-1 November 1991. ⁶⁵

56th Maintenance Squadron [1 November 1991-4 January 1994]

Lt Col Mark A. Taylor	1 November 1991-4 January 1994. ⁶⁶
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⁵⁹ 56 CSG SO G-11, 11 March 1977

⁶⁰ 56 TFW SO G-25, 1 June 1979

⁶¹ 56 CSG SO G-15, 5 May 1983

⁶² 56 CSG SO G-30, 5 August 1983

⁶³ 56 CSG SO G-48, 10 July 1986

⁶⁴ 56 CSG SO G-61, 27 June 1988

⁶⁵ 56 MSS SO G-009, 11 June 1990

⁶⁶ ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron [1 April 1994-.

Maj Danny D. Brandt	1 April 1994 ⁶⁷	
Maj Roy G. Lanier, III	1 July 1994 ⁶⁸	
Lt Col Danny R. Tipton	12 September 1996 ⁶⁹	
Lt Col Dewey A. Holmes	18 September 1998 ⁷⁰	
Lt Col Lorraine M. Souza	6 October 1999 ⁷¹	
Lt Col James L. Broome, III	20 November 2001 ⁷²	
Maj John C. Kubinec	1 April 2003 ⁷³	[Brigadier General]
Lt Col Timothy S. Molnar	29 June 2005 ⁷⁴	
Lt Col Benjamin L. Alley	6 July 2007 ⁷⁵	
Lt Col Paul W. Sturges	30 June 2008 ⁷⁶	
Maj Dominic P. Clementz	6 July 2010 ⁷⁷	
Maj Jeffrey E. Campbell	22 June 2012 ⁷⁸	
Lt Col Christopher S. Barack	18 January 2013 ⁷⁹	
Maj Kathryn N. Roman	19 March 2013 ⁸⁰	
Maj (later, Lt Col) Scott B. Hall	19 March 2013 ⁸¹	
Maj Jeffrey R. Kaepf	11 July 2016-Present. ⁸²	

Narrative.

The 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron's lineage makes it one of the oldest units in the wing. On 28 July 1947, it was designated the Maintenance Squadron, 56th Maintenance and Supply Group. It was organized on 15 August 1947, at Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan, and assigned to the 56th Maintenance and Supply Group. On 1 August 1948, the unit was discontinued.

On 22 October 1984, the Air Force consolidated that unit with two other squadrons. One of those units was 56th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. It was constituted on 17 June 1957,

⁶⁷ [58 MSS SO SO-G-71, 24 June 1992]

⁶⁸ 56 EMS SO SO-GN-0002, 20 June 1994

⁶⁹ 56 EMS SO SO-GN-0001, 11 September 1996

⁷⁰ 56 EMS SO SO-GN-0001, 26 August 1998

⁷¹ 56 EMS SO SO-GN-0001, 6 October 1999

⁷² 56 EMS SO SO-GM-0001, 16 November 2001

⁷³ 56 EMS SO SO-GN-0006, 1 April 2003

⁷⁴ 56 EMS SO 56 EMS GS-04-02, 29 June 2005

⁷⁵ 56 MXG SO SO-GS-001, 7 July 2007

⁷⁶ 56 MSG SO G-027, 18 August 2008

⁷⁷ 56 MSG SO G-021, 6 July 2010

⁷⁸ 56 FW SO G-018, 26 June 2012

⁷⁹ 56 MSG SO GS-5, 18 Jan 2013

⁸⁰ 56 MSG SO GS-9, 19 March 2013

⁸¹ 56 MSG SO GS-22-15, 31 July 2015

⁸² 56 MSG SO G-08-16, 17 May 2016

and activated on 8 September 1957 at O'Hare International Airport, Illinois, and assigned to the 56th Fighter Group (Air Defense). On 1 October 1959, the squadron moved to K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base, Michigan. On 1 February 1961, it was reassigned to the 56th Fighter Wing (Air Defense). On 1 January 1964, the squadron was discontinued, and inactivated.

For about a year near the end of the Vietnam War, the unit was reactivated on 15 July 1974 at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, under the 56th Special Operations Wing and inactivated on 30 June 1975.

The other squadron consolidated with the original unit was the 56th Maintenance Squadron, Fighter, Jet. Constituted on 14 June 1948, the 56th Maintenance Squadron, Fighter, Jet activated on 1 August 1948 and replaced the original unit at Selfridge AFB. The new unit was assigned to the 56th Maintenance and Supply Group. On 20 January 1950, it was redesignated the 56th Maintenance Squadron. It inactivated on 6 February 1952.

On 16 March 1967, the 56th Maintenance Squadron was redesignated and activated as the 56th Field Maintenance Squadron. On 8 April 1967, it was organized at Nakhon Phanom RTAB assigned to the 56th Air Commando (later, 56th Special Operations) Wing. The squadron inactivated on 15 July 1974 and turned over its personnel and assets to the 56th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. 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, the 56th Field Maintenance Squadron activated at MacDill AFB, Florida, where it reported to the 56th Tactical Fighter (later, 56th Tactical Training, 56th Fighter) Wing. On 15 June 1977, it was redesignated the 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron. On 1 November 1991, it was redesignated the 56th Maintenance Squadron and reassigned to the 56th Logistics Group. On 4 January 1994, the unit inactivated.

On 21 March 1994, it was again redesignated as the 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron. On 1 April 1994, it reactivated at Luke AFB, Arizona, assigned to the 56th Logistics (later, 56th Maintenance) Group. Today it provides intermediate and flight line maintenance, phase inspections, structural repair, fabrication, transient alert, aerospace ground equipment, aircraft wheels and tires, armament systems, munitions.

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Updated by Rick Grisct