

## 56th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

### Lineage.

Activated on 3 July 1972 prior to being constituted 56th Organizational Maintenance Squadron on 7 July 1972.<sup>1</sup>  
Inactivated on 15 July 1974.<sup>2</sup>

Activated on 30 June 1975.<sup>3</sup>  
Redesignated 56th Aircraft Generation Squadron on 15 June 1977.  
Inactivated on 1 November 1991.

Redesignated 56th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron on 17 July 2002.  
Activated on 27 September 2002.<sup>4</sup>



### Honors.

#### *Campaign Streamers.*

##### **Vietnam**

Vietnam Cease Fire [1972-1973]<sup>5</sup>

### Decorations.

#### **Presidential Unit Citation**

Vietnam, [3 July] 1972-22 February 1973

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

23 February 1973-28 February 1974 with Combat "V" Device

1 January 1977-1 January 1979<sup>6</sup>

1 July 1980-31 May 1982<sup>7</sup>

1 June 1984-31 May 1986<sup>8</sup>

1 May 1987-30 April 1989<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> PACAF SO G-107, 3 July 1972

<sup>2</sup> PACAF SO GA-20, 17 June 1974

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

<sup>4</sup> AETC SO G-02-20, 23 June 2002

<sup>5</sup> PACAF SO GB-0187, 15 July 1974

<sup>6</sup> DAF SO GB-719, 30 November 1979

<sup>7</sup> DAF SO GB-117, 22 February 1983

<sup>8</sup> DAF SO GB-275/1987

<sup>9</sup> TAC SO GA-053, 29 August 1989

**Decorations. (Continued)**

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

1 May 1989-30 April 1990<sup>10</sup>  
1 May 1990-30 April 1991<sup>11</sup>  
1 July 2001-30 June 2003<sup>12</sup>  
1 June [July] 2003-30 June 2005<sup>13</sup>  
1 July 2005-30 June 2006<sup>14</sup>  
1 July 2006-30 June 2007<sup>15</sup>  
1 July 2007-30 June 2008<sup>16</sup>  
1 July 2008-30 June 2009<sup>17</sup>  
1 July 2009-30 June 2010<sup>18</sup>  
1 July 2010-30 June 2011<sup>19</sup>  
1 July 2011-30 June 2012<sup>20</sup>  
1 July 2012-30 June 2013<sup>21</sup>  
1 July 2013-30 June 2014<sup>22</sup>

***Special Honors.***

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross With Palm, 3 July 1972-28 January 1973.

**Assignments.** 56th Special Operations Wing, 3 July 1972-15 July 1974. 56th Tactical Fighter (later, 56th Tactical Training, 56th Fighter) Wing, 30 June 1975-1 November 1991. 56th Maintenance Group, 27 September 2002-.<sup>23</sup>

**Stations.** Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, 3 July 1972-15 July 1974. MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, 30 June 1975-1 November 1991. Luke AFB, Arizona, 27 September 2002-.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> TAC SO GA-048, 16 August 1990

<sup>11</sup> TAC SO GA-069/1991

<sup>12</sup> AETC SO GA-55/2004

<sup>13</sup> AETC SO GA-0052/2006

<sup>14</sup> AETC SO GA-045/2007

<sup>15</sup> AETC SO G-054/2008

<sup>16</sup> AETC SO G-071/2009

<sup>17</sup> AETC SO G-025/2010

<sup>18</sup> AETC SO G-086/2011

<sup>19</sup> AETC SO G-171/17 April 2012

<sup>20</sup> AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013

<sup>21</sup> AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014

<sup>22</sup> AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015

<sup>23</sup> AETC SO G-02-20, 23 June 2002

<sup>24</sup> AETC SO G-02-20, 23 June 2002

**Aircraft.** None.

**Emblem.** Approved on 19 March 1979

**Blazon.** On a disc edged with a narrow yellow border, a background divided horizontally into a medium blue sky with a stylized White cloud formation issuing from sinister, above a green arced land area, overall issuing from base four arced vapor trail s ascending bendwise, attached in base and dispersing in the top of the disc, each ending in a flight symbol, the colors from dexter to sinister yellow, white, blue and red. Attached above the disc a white scroll edged yellow and inscribed "CAN DO" in blue letters. Attached below the disc a blank white scroll edged yellow.

**Motto.** Can Do.

**Significance.** Blue and 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 red cross represents strength within the medical arena; it also symbolizes the "blanket" of medical commitment provided by unit personnel to both flying and non-flying military members. The Caduceus, the symbolic staff of a herald, is at the point of the futuristic aircraft. This position signifies that the unit is ready to supply aeromedical support to aircrews, personnel and the environmental elements of space. The earth signifies the worldwide commitment of peacekeeping and the environmental protection of air, water and land.

#### **Commanders.**

**56th Organizational Maintenance Squadron [3 July 1972-15 July 1974;  
30 June 1975-15 June 1977]**

Unknown	3 July 1972-November 1972
Lt Col Ray J. Lunnen, Jr.	c. November 1972
Lt Col Wayne R. Bratcher	bef 31 March 1974
Maj Stanley D. Sebring	19 May 1974-15 July 1974 <sup>25</sup>
Maj James L. Knoblauch	30 June 1975
Lt Col John M. Hagood	bef 31 March 1976
Lt Col Robert J. Larison	1 June 1977-15 June 1977

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<sup>25</sup> 56 OMS SO G-001, 19 May 1974

***56th Aircraft Generation Squadron [15 June 1977-1 November 1991]***

Lt Col Robert J. Larison	15 June 1977	
Maj Billy A. Barrett	28 June 1977	
Lt Col Robert J. Larison	bef 30 September 1977	
Lt Col Leroy W. Stutz	14 March 1980	
Maj David F. Goodwin	15 July 1983 <sup>26</sup>	
Lt Col Brian L. Osborn	29 August 1985	
Maj Donald J. Wetekam	2 July 1987 <sup>27</sup>	(Lieutenant General)
Lt Col Clarence L. Campbell	3 August 1989 <sup>28</sup>	
Lt Col Mark A. Taylor	19 September 1990-1 November 1991.	

***56th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron [27 September 2002-.]***

Lt Col Harry A. Truhn	27 September 2002 <sup>29</sup>	
Maj John C. Mateer, IV	30 May 2003 <sup>30</sup>	
Lt Col Walter J. Lindsley	24 June 2004 <sup>31</sup>	
Lt Col Fredrick G. Plaumann	14 July 2006 <sup>32</sup>	
Maj Brian P. Shawaryn	11 July 2008	
Lt Col Matthew G. Pollock	21 September 2008 <sup>33</sup>	
Maj (later, Lt Col) James D. Upchurch	23 August 2010 <sup>34</sup>	
Maj (later, Lt Col) Jason M. Mitchell	27 June 2012 <sup>35</sup>	
Maj (later, Lt Col) David A. Lemery	8 July 2014 <sup>36</sup> -Present.	

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<sup>26</sup> 56 CSG SO G-24, 15 July 1983

<sup>27</sup> 56 CSG SO G-56, 2 July 1987

<sup>28</sup> 56 MSS SO G-036, 2 August 1989

<sup>29</sup> 56 AMXS SO 56 AMXS G-1, 27 September 2002

<sup>30</sup> 56 AMXS SO 56 AMXS - G-4, 21 May 2003

<sup>31</sup> 56 AMXS SO 56 AMXS - G-1, 21 June 2004

<sup>32</sup> 56 AMXS SO 56 AMXS G-3, 30 May 2006

<sup>33</sup> 56 AMXS SO G-048, 19 September 2008

<sup>34</sup> 56 MSG SO G-037, 17 November 2010

<sup>35</sup> 56 FW SO G-022, 2 July 2012

<sup>36</sup> 56 MSG SO GS-22-14, 8 July 2014

**Narrative.**

On 3 July 1972, the 56th Special Operations Wing activated the 56th Organizational Maintenance Squadron at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand prior to constituting the squadron on 7 July 1972. The squadron conducted flightline maintenance of OV-10, O-1, EC-47 aircraft, and CH-53 helicopters in support of combat operations. Due to its efforts, the squadron earned the Vietnam Ceasefire Campaign Streamer, a Presidential Unit Citation, an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device, and a Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm. The squadron inactivated on 15 July 1974.

On 30 June 1975, the 56th Organizational Maintenance Squadron activated again as part of the 56th Tactical Fighter Wing (later, the 56th Tactical Training Wing and then the 56th Fighter Wing) at MacDill AFB, Florida. While there, the squadron maintained F-4 and F-16 aircraft in support of the wing's training mission. In 1977, the wing was the test site for the Combat Oriented Maintenance Concept. As part of the test, the squadron was redesignated the 56th Aircraft Generation Squadron on 15 June 1977. On 1 November 1991, the 56th Aircraft Generation Squadron inactivated.

On 17 July 2002, the unit was redesignated 56th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and activated on 27 September 2002 at Luke AFB, Arizona. Assigned to the 56th Maintenance Group, the squadron safely generates mission ready aircraft and develops its airmen.

**Date Prepared.** 22 October 2002

**Supersedes** statement prepared on 9 October 1975

**Prepared by** Carl E. Bailey

**Approved by** Judy G. Endicott

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**Updated by** Rick Griset