

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.

Inactivated on 4 January 1994.¹

Activated 1 April 1994.²



Honors.

Decorations.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 July 1994-30 June 1996³
1 July 1996-30 June 1998⁴
1 July 1998-30 June 2000⁵
1 July 2001-30 June 2003⁶
1 June [July] 2003-30 June 2005⁷
1 July 2005-30 June 2006⁸
1 July 2006-30 June 2007⁹
1 July 2007-30 June 2008¹⁰
1 July 2008-30 June 2009¹¹
1 July 2009-30 June 2010¹²
1 July 2010-30 June 2011¹³

¹ ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

² AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

³ AETC SO GA-18/1996

⁴ AETC SO GA-12/1998

⁵ AETC SO GA-9/2000

⁶ AETC SO GA-55/2004

⁷ AETC SO GA-0052/2006

⁸ AETC SO GA-045/2007

⁹ AETC SO G-054/2008

¹⁰ AETC SO G-071/2009

¹¹ AETC SO G-025/2010

¹² AETC SO G-086/2011

Decorations. (Continued)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (Continued)

1 July 2011-30 June 2012¹⁴

1 July 2012-30 June 2013¹⁵

1 July 2013-30 June 2014¹⁶

Assignments. 56th Air Base Group, 1 August 1948-6 February 1952. 56th Combat Support (later, 56th Support) Group, 1 October 1991-1 January 1994. 56th Support (later, 56th Mission Support) Group on 1 April 1994-.¹⁷

Stations. Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan, 1 August 1948-6 February 1952. MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, 1 October 1991-4 January 1994. Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 1 April 1994-.¹⁸

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 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."

¹³ AETC SO G-171/17 April 2012

¹⁴ AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013

¹⁵ AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014

¹⁶ AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015

¹⁷ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994; AETC SO G-02-20, 23 June 2002

¹⁸ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

Commanders.

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

Unknown

1 August 1948-20 January 1950

***56th Communications Squadron* [20 January 1950-6 February 1952;**

1 October 1991-4 January 1994;

1 April 1994-.]

Unknown

20 January 1950-6 February 1952

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 1994¹⁹

Maj Robert J. Steele

4 August 1994²⁰

Lt Col Wilson D. Crafton

1 July 1997²¹

Lt Col Jeffrey A. Corvey

2 June 1999²²

Lt Col Frank Knickerbocker, IV

12 June 2001²³

Lt Col Eric J. Pierce

8 July 2003²⁴

Lt Col Timothy J. Pearson

9 June 2005²⁵

Maj Rashone J. Tate

5 June 2007²⁶

Lt Col David Hillman

22 June 2009²⁷

Maj (later, Lt Col) Zachary S. Warakowski

8 April 2011²⁸

Maj Raymond H. Chester, Jr.

14 June 2013²⁹

Maj Lewis G. Sorvillo.

5 June 2015-Present.³⁰

¹⁹ [58 MSS SO SO-G-7, 1 October 1991]

²⁰ 56 CS SO SO-GQ-2, 4 August 1994

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

²² 56 CS SO GS-002, 27 April 1999

²³ 56 CS SO OS-TQ-002, 7 May 2001

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

²⁵ 56 CS SO 56 CS GS-01, 8 June 2005

²⁶ 56 MSG SO MSG-07-06, 5 June 2007

²⁷ 56 MSG SO G-027, 22 June 2009

²⁸ 56 MSG SO G-004, 8 April 2011

²⁹ 56 MSG SO GS-14, 14 June 2013

³⁰ 56 MSG SO GS-07-15, 5 May 2015

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.

Date Prepared. 6 December 1996

Prepared by William J. Allen

Updated 13 August 2014

Updated by Rick Grisct