

56th Force Support Squadron

Lineage.

Designated Squadron "D", 56th Airdrome Group, on 27 July 1947.¹

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 1967.²

Inactivated on 28 February 1975.

Activated on 30 June 1975.³

Redesignated 56th Morale, Welfare, Recreation and Services Squadron on 4 September 1992.⁴

Inactivated on 4 January 1994.⁵

Redesignated 56th Services Squadron on 21 March 1994.

Activated on 1 April 1994.⁶

Redesignated 56th Force Support Squadron on 26 February 2009.⁷



¹ 56 FW GO-1, c. 15 August 1947

² PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

³ TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975

⁴ ACC SO GB-124, 21 August 1992

⁵ ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

⁶ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

⁷ 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]⁸

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV [1968-1969]

Tet 1969 Counteroffensive [1969]

Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969 [1969]

Vietnam Winter/Spring 1970 [1969-1970]⁹

Sanctuary Counteroffensive [1970]

Southwest Monsoon [1970]¹⁰

Commando Hunt V [1970-1971]¹¹

Commando Hunt VI [1971]¹²

Commando Hunt VII [1971-1972]¹³

Vietnam Cease Fire [1972-1973]¹⁴

Decorations.**Presidential Unit Citations**

Southeast Asia 1 November 1968-1 May 1969¹⁵

Southeast Asia 1 October 1969-30 April 1970¹⁶

Southeast Asia 1 April 1972-22 February 1973.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 June 1970-31 May 1971 with Combat "V" Device¹⁷

1 December 1971-29 February 1972 with Combat "V" Device¹⁸

23 February 1973-28 February 1974 with Combat "V" Device¹⁹

1 January 1977-1 January 1979²⁰

⁸ PACAF SO G-184, 30 July 1969

⁹ PACAF SO G-352, 14 June 1971

¹⁰ PACAF SO GB-0019, 31 January 1974

¹¹ PACAF SO GB-0022, 31 January 1974

¹² PACAF SO GB-0025, 31 January 1974

¹³ PACAF SO GB-0027, 31 January 1974

¹⁴ PACAF SO GB-0187, 15 July 1974

¹⁵ DAF SO GB-552/1970

¹⁶ DAF SO GB-352/1971

¹⁷ DAF SO GB-703, 9 November 1971

¹⁸ DAF SO GB-553/1973

¹⁹ DAF SO GB-600/1975

²⁰ DAF SO GB-719, 30 November 1979

Decorations. (Continued)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (Continued)

1 July 1980-31 May 1982²¹
1 June 1984-31 May 1986²²
1 May 1987-30 April 1989²³
1 May 1990-30 April 1991²⁴
1 July 1994-30 June 1996²⁵
1 July 1996-30 June 1998²⁶
1 July 1998-30 June 2000²⁷
1 July 2001-30 June 2003²⁸
1 June [July] 2003-30 June 2005²⁹
1 July 2005-30 June 2006³⁰
1 July 2006-30 June 2007³¹
1 July 2007-30 June 2008³²
1 July 2008-30 June 2009³³
1 July 2009-30 June 2010³⁴
1 July 2010-30 June 2011³⁵
1 July 2011-30 June 2012³⁶
1 July 2012-30 June 2013³⁷
1 July 2013-30 June 2014³⁸

Special Honors.

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

²¹ DAF SO GB-117, 22 February 1983

²² DAF SO GB-275/1987

²³ TAC SO GA-053, 29 August 1989

²⁴ TAC SO GA-069/1991

²⁵ AETC SO GA-18/1996

²⁶ AETC SO GA-12/1998

²⁷ AETC SO GA-9/2000

²⁸ AETC SO GA-55/2004

²⁹ AETC SO GA-0052/2006

³⁰ AETC SO GA-045/2007

³¹ AETC SO G-054/2008

³² AETC SO G-071/2009

³³ AETC SO G-025/2010

³⁴ AETC SO G-086/2011

³⁵ AETC SO G-171/17 April 2012

³⁶ AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013

³⁷ AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014

³⁸ AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015

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 1967³⁹-28 February 1975. 56th Combat Support (later, 56th Support) Group 30 June 1975-4 January 1994⁴⁰; 56th Support (later, 56th Mission Support) Group 1 April 1994-.⁴¹

Stations. Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan, 15 August 1947-6 February 1952. Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, 8 April 1967⁴²-28 February 1975. MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, 30 June 1975-4 January 1994.⁴³ Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 1 April 1994-.⁴⁴

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 SQUADRON" 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

³⁹ PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

⁴⁰ TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975; ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

⁴¹ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994; AETC SO G-02-20, 23 June 2002

⁴² PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

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

⁴⁴ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

Commanders.

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

Unknown	15 August 1947-1 August 1948.
---------	-------------------------------

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.

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 ⁴⁵
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 ⁴⁶
1st Lt Alvin J. Heggem	5 June 1986
Lt Col Thomas B. Fletcher	9 July 1986 ⁴⁷

⁴⁵ 56 CSG SO G-5, 7 October 1975

⁴⁶ 56 CSG G-7, 18 May 1984

Commanders. (Continued)

Maj Sharon Hines-Marquis	27 February 1990 ⁴⁸
Maj John C. McClelland	5 September 1991-1 September 1992

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 ⁴⁹
Maj Lynne D. Bitler	5 May 1994 ⁵⁰
Lt Col Claude C. Braley	10 June 1994 ⁵¹
Lt Col Ron L. Winkel	7 June 1996 ⁵²
Maj Anne F. Fitch	24 June 1999 ⁵³
Lt Col Patricia M. Carpenter	11 June 2001 ⁵⁴
Lt Col Alan C. Gnann	15 July 2003 ⁵⁵
Lt Col Dane D. Matthew	23 June 2005 ⁵⁶
Maj William M.G. Manley	23 July 2007 ⁵⁷ -26 February 2009

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

Maj William M.G. Manley	26 February 2009
Maj Carol Gordon	27 February 2009 ⁵⁸
Maj Rodney J. Nichols	11 June 2009 ⁵⁹
Maj (later, Lt Col) Timothy A. Farr	6 July 2011 ⁶⁰
Lt Col Todd P. Ladd	10 June 2013 ⁶¹ .
Maj Tonya Y. Mack	17 July 2015-Present. ⁶²

⁴⁷ 56 CSG SO G-47, 8 July 1986

⁴⁸ 56 MSS SO G-003, 23 February 1990

⁴⁹ 58 MSS SO SO-GS-001, 6 October 1992

⁵⁰ 56 SVS SO SO-GS-003, 18 May 1994

⁵¹ 56 SVS SO SO-GS-005, 13 June 1994

⁵² 56 SG, SO SO-GS-003, 5 June 1996

⁵³ 56 FW SO GS-99-01, 23 June 1999

⁵⁴ 56 FW SO GS-01-02, 11 June 2001

⁵⁵ 56 SVS SO 56 SVS G-2003-1, 8 July 2003

⁵⁶ 56 SVS SO 56 SVS-G-05-01, 8 June 2005

⁵⁷ 56 MSG SO MSG-07-11, 5 June 2007

⁵⁸ 56 MSG SO G-025, 24 April 2009

⁵⁹ 56 FSS SO G-032, 10 June 2009

⁶⁰ 56 MDG SO G-019, 6 July 2011

⁶¹ 56 MSG SO GS-18, 10 June 2013

⁶² 56 MSG SO GS-14-15, 7 July 2015

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, along with the wing, 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, the squadron 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. Today, the squadron provides, develops, and maintains programs to ensure personal and professional development and fulfills individual and family needs of the Luke community. It provides personnel accountability systems and programs to support local mission and higher headquarters' taskings. The unit provides exceptional combat readiness through quality of life and mission enhancing programs.

Date Prepared. 11 January 2011

Prepared by Helen Weaver

Approved by Judy G. Endicott

Updated 29 July 2015

Updated by Rick Grisct