

## 56th Civil Engineer Squadron

### Lineage.

Designated Squadron "C," 56th Airdrome  
Group on 28 July 1947.

Organized on 15 August 1947.

Discontinued on 1 August 1948.

Consolidated (3 October 1984) with  
56th Installations Squadron,  
Fighter, Jet, which was constituted  
on 14 June 1948.

Activated on 1 August 1948.

Redesignated 56th Installations Squadron  
on 20 January 1950.

Inactivated 6 February 1952.

Redesignated 56th Civil Engineering Squadron, and activated, on 28 December 1960.<sup>1</sup>

Organized on 1 February 1961.

Discontinued, and inactivated, on 1 January 1964.<sup>2</sup>

Activated on 16 March 1967.

Organized on 8 April 1967.<sup>3</sup>

Inactivated on 4 January 1994.<sup>4</sup>

Redesignated 56th Civil Engineer Squadron on 21 March 1994.

Activated 1 April 1994.<sup>5</sup>



---

<sup>1</sup> AFOMO 536m, 28 December 1960

<sup>2</sup> AFOMO 90n, 16 September 1963

<sup>3</sup> PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

<sup>4</sup> ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

<sup>5</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

## **Honors.**

### ***Campaign Streamers.***

#### **Vietnam**

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II [1967-1968]  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III [1968]<sup>6</sup>  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV [1968-1969]  
Tet 1969 Counteroffensive [1969]  
Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969 [1969]  
Vietnam Winter/Spring 1970 [1969-1970]<sup>7</sup>  
Sanctuary Counteroffensive [1970]  
Southwest Monsoon [1970]<sup>8</sup>  
Commando Hunt V [1970-1971]<sup>9</sup>  
Commando Hunt VI [1971]<sup>10</sup>  
Commando Hunt VII [1971-1972]<sup>11</sup>  
Vietnam Cease Fire [1972-1973]<sup>12</sup>

## **Decorations.**

### **Presidential Unit Citations**

Southeast Asia 1 November 1968-1 May 1969<sup>13</sup>  
Southeast Asia 1 October 1969-30 April 1970<sup>14</sup>  
Southeast Asia 1 April 1972-22 February 1973

### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

1 June 1970-31 May 1971 with Combat "V" Device<sup>15</sup>  
1 December 1971-29 February 1972 with Combat "V" Device<sup>16</sup>  
23 February 1973-28 February 1974 with Combat "V" Device<sup>17</sup>  
24 January-2 May 1975 with Combat "V" Device<sup>18</sup>  
1 January 1977-1 January 1979<sup>19</sup>  
1 October 1979-30 September 1980<sup>20</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> PACAF SO G-184, 30 July 1969

<sup>7</sup> PACAF SO G-352, 14 June 1971

<sup>8</sup> PACAF SO GB-0019, 31 January 1974

<sup>9</sup> PACAF SO GB-0022, 31 January 1974

<sup>10</sup> PACAF SO GB-0025, 31 January 1974

<sup>11</sup> PACAF SO GB-0027, 31 January 1974

<sup>12</sup> PACAF SO GB-0187, 15 July 1974

<sup>13</sup> DAF SO GB-552/1970

<sup>14</sup> DAF SO GB-352/1971

<sup>15</sup> DAF SO GB-703, 9 November 1971

<sup>16</sup> DAF SO GB-553/1973

<sup>17</sup> DAF SO GB-600/1975

<sup>18</sup> USAF SO GB-623, 10 August 1976

<sup>19</sup> DAF SO GB-719, 30 November 1979

<sup>20</sup> DAF SO GB-122/1982

**Decorations. (Continued)**

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

1 July 1980-31 May 1982<sup>21</sup>  
1 June 1984-31 May 1986<sup>22</sup>  
1 May 1987-30 April 1989<sup>23</sup>  
1 May 1989-30 April 1990<sup>24</sup>  
1 May 1990-30 April 1991<sup>25</sup>  
1 July 1994-30 June 1996<sup>26</sup>  
1 July 1996-30 June 1998<sup>27</sup>  
1 July 1998-30 June 2000<sup>28</sup>  
1 July 2001-30 June 2003<sup>29</sup>  
1 June [July] 2003-30 June 2005<sup>30</sup>  
1 July 2005-30 June 2006<sup>31</sup>  
1 July 2006-30 June 2007<sup>32</sup>  
1 July 2007-30 June 2008<sup>33</sup>  
1 July 2008-30 June 2009<sup>34</sup>  
1 July 2009-30 June 2010<sup>35</sup>  
1 July 2010-30 June 2011<sup>36</sup>  
1 July 2011-30 June 2012<sup>37</sup>  
1 July 2012-30 June 2013<sup>38</sup>  
1 July 2013-30 June 2014<sup>39</sup>

***Special Honors.***

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

- 
- <sup>21</sup> DAF SO GB-117, 22 February 1983  
<sup>22</sup> DAF SO GB-275/1987  
<sup>23</sup> TAC SO GA-053, 29 August 1989  
<sup>24</sup> TAC SO GA-048, 16 August 1990  
<sup>25</sup> TAC SO GA-069/1991  
<sup>26</sup> AETC SO GA-18/1996  
<sup>27</sup> AETC SO GA-12/1998  
<sup>28</sup> AETC SO GA-9/2000  
<sup>29</sup> AETC SO GA-55/2004  
<sup>30</sup> AETC SO GA-0052/2006  
<sup>31</sup> AETC SO GA-045/2007  
<sup>32</sup> AETC SO G-054/2008  
<sup>33</sup> AETC SO G-071/2009  
<sup>34</sup> AETC SO G-025/2010  
<sup>35</sup> AETC SO G-086/2011  
<sup>36</sup> AETC SO G-171/17 April 2012  
<sup>37</sup> AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013  
<sup>38</sup> AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014  
<sup>39</sup> AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015

**Assignments.** 56th Airdrome Group, 15 August 1947-31 July 1948. 56th Air Base Group, 1 August 1948-6 February 1952. 56th Air Base (later, 56th Combat Support) Group, 1 February 1961-1 January 1964. 56th Combat Support (later, 56th Support) Group, 8 April 1967<sup>40</sup>-4 January 1994.<sup>41</sup> 56th Support (later, 56th Mission Support) Group on 1 April 1994-.<sup>42</sup>

**Stations.** Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan, 15 August 1947-6 February 1952. K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base, Michigan, 1 February 1961-1 January 1964. Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, 8 April 1967<sup>43</sup>-30 June 1975; MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, 30 June 1975-4 January 1994.<sup>44</sup> Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 1 April 1994-.<sup>45</sup>

**Aircraft.** None.

**Emblem.** Approved on 30 October 2003

**Blazon.** On a disc per bend Or and Azure, emerging in front of a keystone outlined Tenné, voided of the field, an armed knight in prospect Proper garnished Sable, plumed Gules, on sinister arm a shield blazoned: "Tenné a chevron Azure, edged Or, thereon a lightning flash chevron-wise of the last, all within a narrow border Blue.

Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "DRAGONSLAYERS" in Blue letters.

Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "56TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQ" in Blue letters.

**Motto.** Dragonslayers.

**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 knight with sword down represents the support provided by the Squadron to its parent wing by preparing it for battle. The shield is reminiscent of the coat of arms of the parent wing and reflects the unit's contribution to a worldwide defense deployment capability.

---

<sup>40</sup> PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

<sup>41</sup> ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

<sup>42</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994; AETC SO G-02-20, 23 June 2002

<sup>43</sup> PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

<sup>44</sup> ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

<sup>45</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

**Commanders.**

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

Unknown 15 August 1947-1 August 1948

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

Unknown 1 August 1948-20 January 1950

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

Unknown 20 January 1950

Lt Col Richard J. Coffee bef 26 Mar 1951

Capt Tom E. LeRetilley August 1951

***56th Civil Engineering Squadron [1 February 1961-1 January 1964;  
8 April 1967-4 January 1994]***

Lt Col D.C. Oldershaw 1 February 1961

Capt Wayne V. Jorgensen July 1961

Maj James F. Klentzman 4 December 1961

Lt Col H.W. Pollock bef 31 March 1962-  
aft 30 September 1963

Unknown 1 October 1963-1 January 1964

Maj Robert K. Jones 8 April 1967

Lt Col Sydney E. Key 26 April 1967<sup>46</sup>

Maj Edmund H. Keranen bef 20 November 1967

Lt Col Sydney E. Key bef 6 February 1968

Lt Col John G. Rice bef 31 March 1968

Maj Joe G. Winslow bef 17 November 1968

Lt Col George R. Grube bef 31 March 1969

Lt Col Ray C. Rawlston bef 31 December 1969

Lt Col Harry H. Magazu bef 30 June 1970

Lt Col John P. Turner bef 30 September 1970

Maj Paul M. Richter bef 30 September 1971

Lt Col Aaron A. Powers, Jr. bef 30 June 1972

Maj Milton D. Rindahl bef 31 March 1973

Lt Col Terrance E. Hobbs 13 July 1973

Lt Col Ernest E. Walkup 15 July 1974

Lt Col Donald L. Spurrier bef 30 June 1975

Lt Col Vincent E. DelVecchio 30 June 1975

Lt Col David P. Gibbs 24 June 1977

Col Walter F. Tatum, Jr. 2 October 1978

---

<sup>46</sup> 56 CES SO 11, [April] 1967

**Commanders. (Continued)**

Col Earle R. Cole	11 July 1983 <sup>47</sup>
Col Robert L. Bell	12 June 1985
Lt Col Gary C. Gibson	16 March 1988 <sup>48</sup>
Col Walter L. Gray	15 August 1988 <sup>49</sup>
Lt Col Scott L. Smith	10 October 1990
Lt Col Jeffrey L. Tyley	July 1992-4 January 1994

***56th Civil Engineer Squadron [1 April 1994-.]***

Lt Col Steven A. Bitler	1 April 1994 <sup>50</sup>
Lt Col Raymond E. Dinsmore	19 June 1995 <sup>51</sup>
Maj Joseph Lacatus	2 June 1997 <sup>52</sup>
Lt Col Steven E. Heorn	30 July 1997 <sup>53</sup>
Lt Col David C. Brewer	13 July 1999 <sup>54</sup>
Lt Col John R. Lohr	3 July 2001 <sup>55</sup>
Lt col John P. Dewine	6 June 2003 <sup>56</sup>
Lt Col Douglas M. Hammer	17 June 2005 <sup>57</sup>
Lt Col Anthony R. Ramage	11 June 2007 <sup>58</sup>
Lt Col John D. Thomas	2 July 2009 <sup>59</sup>
Lt Col Chad B. Bondurant	8 July 2011 <sup>60</sup>
Lt Col Kenneth B. Herndon	9 May 2013 <sup>61</sup>
Lt Col Gregory C. Mayer	17 June 2015-Present. <sup>62</sup>

---

<sup>47</sup> 56 CSG SO G-22, 11 July 1983

<sup>48</sup> 56 CSG SO G-42, 16 March 1988

<sup>49</sup> 56 CSG SO G-79, 12 August 1988

<sup>50</sup> [58 MSS SO SO-G-48, 6 February 1992]

<sup>51</sup> 56 CES SO GP-002, c. 20 June 1995

<sup>52</sup> 56 CES SO G-001, 5 June 1997

<sup>53</sup> 56 CES SO SO-GP-02, c. 30 July 1997

<sup>54</sup> 56 CES SO G-001, 13 July 1999

<sup>55</sup> 56 CES SO G-004, 28 June 2001

<sup>56</sup> 56 CES SO 56 CES G-1, 6 June 2003

<sup>57</sup> 56 CES SO 56 CES G-1, 17 June 2005

<sup>58</sup> 56 MSG SO MSG-07-06, 5 June 2007

<sup>59</sup> 56MSG SO G-040, 16 July 2009

<sup>60</sup> 56 FSS SO G-022, 8 July 2011

<sup>61</sup> 56 MSG SO GS-15, 9 May 2013

<sup>62</sup> 56 MSG SO GS-09-15, 1 July 2015

**Narrative.**

The 56th Civil Engineer Squadron's lineage makes it one of the oldest wing units. On 28 July 1947, it was designated Squadron "C," 56th Airdrome Group. On 15 August 1947, same day as the wing, the squadron was organized at Selfridge Field (later, AFB), Michigan, and assigned to the 56th Airdrome Group. On 1 August 1948, the squadron turned over its personnel, equipment and facilities to the 56th Installations Squadron, Fighter, Jet, and was discontinued.

On 3 October 1984, the squadron was consolidated with the unit that replaced it. The 56th Installations Squadron, Fighter, Jet, was constituted on 14 June 1948. Activated on 1 August 1948, it was assigned to the 56th Air Base Group. On 20 January 1950, it was redesignated as the 56th Installations Squadron. On 6 February 1952, the squadron inactivated.

On 28 December 1960, the unit was redesignated the 56th Civil Engineering Squadron, and activated. On 1 February 1961, it was organized at K.I. Sawyer AFB, Michigan, and assigned to the 56th Air Base (later, 56th Combat Support) Group. On 1 January 1964, the squadron was discontinued, and inactivated.

Activated on 16 March 1967, the squadron was organized on 8 April 1967 at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. It was assigned to the 56th Combat Support (later, 56th Support) Group. While in Thailand, the squadron earned 12 Campaign Streamers, 3 Presidential Unit Citations, 4 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device, and a Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.

On 30 June 1975, the squadron moved with the group and wing to MacDill AFB, Florida. On 4 January 1994, the squadron inactivated.

On 21 March 1994, the unit was redesignated as the 56th Civil Engineer Squadron. On 1 April 1994, it activated at Luke AFB, Arizona, and was again assigned to the 56th Support (later, 56th Mission Support) Group. Today the squadron sustains Team Luke with a rock solid foundation while delivering agile combat support anytime, anywhere.

**Date Prepared.** 9 December 1996

**Prepared by** William J. Allen

**Updated** 1 July 2015

**Updated by** Rick Griset