

## 56th Security Forces Squadron

### Lineage.

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

Activated on 15 August 1947.

Discontinued on 1 August 1948.

Consolidated (12 October 1984) with the 56th Air Police Squadron, Fighter, Jet, which was constituted on 14 June 1948.

Activated on 1 August 1948.

Redesignated 56th Air Police Squadron on 20 January 1950.

Inactivated on 6 February 1952.

Activated on 15 February 1963.

Organized on 1 April 1963.

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

Redesignated 56th Security Police Squadron, and activated, on 16 March 1967.

Organized on 8 April 1967.<sup>2</sup>

Inactivated on 4 January 1994.<sup>3</sup>

Activated on 1 April 1994.<sup>4</sup>

Redesignated 56th Security Forces Squadron on 1 July 1997.<sup>5</sup>



### 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]

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<sup>1</sup> AFOMO 90n, 16 September 1963

<sup>2</sup> PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

<sup>3</sup> ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

<sup>4</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

<sup>5</sup> AETC SO G-97-28, 17 June 1997

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

***Campaign Streamers. (Continued)***

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 Award**

1 June 1970-31 May 1971 with Combat "V" Device<sup>15</sup>  
1 December 1970-30 November 1971 with Combat "V" Device<sup>16</sup>  
1 December 1971-29 February 1972 with Combat "V" Device<sup>17</sup>  
23 February 1973-28 February 1974 with Combat "V" Device<sup>18</sup>  
24 January 1975-2 May 1975 with Combat "V" Device<sup>19</sup>  
1 January 1977-1 January 1979<sup>20</sup>  
1 July 1980-31 May 1982<sup>21</sup>  
1 June 1984-31 May 1986<sup>22</sup>

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<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-667, 28 September 1972

<sup>17</sup> DAF SO GB-553/1973

<sup>18</sup> DAF SO GB-600/1975

<sup>19</sup> DAF SO GB-623, 10 August 1976

<sup>20</sup> DAF SO GB-719, 30 November 1979

<sup>21</sup> DAF SO GB-117, 22 February 1983

<sup>22</sup> DAF SO GB-275/1987

**Decorations. (Continued)**

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

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.

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<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 1947-1 August 1948. 56th Air Base Group, 1 August 1948-6 February 1952. 56th Air Base (later, 56th Combat Support) Group, 15 February 1963-1 January 1964. 56th Combat Support (later, 56th Support) Group, 8 April 1967<sup>40</sup>-4 January 1994. 56th Support (later, 56th Mission Support) Group on 1 April 1994-.<sup>41</sup>

**Stations.** Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan, 15 August 1947-6 February 1952. K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base, Michigan, 1 April 1963-1 January 1964. Nakhon Phanon Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, 8 April 1967<sup>42</sup>-30 June 1975. MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, 30 June 1975-4 January 1994. Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 1 April 1994-.<sup>43</sup>

**Aircraft.** None.

**Emblem.** Approved on 13 August 1979

**Blazon.** On a blue disc edged with a narrow yellow border, a tan rattlesnake, coiled, with black markings and details, eye yellow, emitting from its open mouth a horizontal yellow lightning bolt.

**Motto.** Ready to Strike.

**Significance.** The lightning Bolt was taken from the insignia of the 56th Combat Support Group, which the 56th Security Police Squadron is a part of. The rattlesnake has 50 diamonds and six rattles, and represents the 56th Security Police Squadron. The Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake is very prevalent in the area that the 56th Security Police Squadron is stationed in. The Eastern diamondback is an appropriate symbol, because it will stand its ground, and will strike when threatened. The motto, "Ready to Strike," means that the 56th Security Police Squadron is ready for action, and can be immediately mobilized and deployed anywhere in the world.

**Commanders.**

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

Unknown

15 August 1947-1 August 1948

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

Unknown

1 August 1948-20 January 1950

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

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

<sup>42</sup> PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

<sup>43</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

**Commanders. (Continued)**

**56th Air Police Squadron [20 January 1950-6 February 1952;  
1 April 1963-1 January 1964]**

Unknown	20 January 1950-6 February 1952
Maj Eugene A. Lamar	1 April 1963-1 January 1964

**56th Security Police Squadron [8 April 1967-4 January 1994;  
1 April 1994-1 July 1997]**

Capt Ralph N. Dunlap	8 April 1967
1st Lt John W. Ross	bef 8 June 1967
Capt Paul N. Scheidel	bef 15 August 1967
1st Lt Charles Sprunk	bef 15 October 1967
Capt Paul N. Scheidel	bef 15 January 1968
Maj Melvin N. Toloso	bef November 1968
Maj Robert V. Jones	bef 30 June 1969
Lt Col William D. Raven	bef 30 September 1969
Maj Gerald R. Frank	bef 30 September 1970
Maj Renwick F. Mottley	bef 30 September 1971
Maj James S. Barger	bef 31 March 1972
Maj Joseph W. Wilson	bef 30 June 1972
Maj Thomas J. Murphy	bef 31 December 1972
Maj Gary G. Allison	bef 31 March 1973
Lt Col Billie M. Downer	1 May 1973
Maj George T. Harper	15 March 1974
Maj Lewis A. Elam	bef 31 March 1974
Maj George T. Harper	bef 30 September 1974
Capt Charles J. Heubusch	bef 30 June 1975
Lt Col Billie M. Downer	30 June 1975
Unknown	1 September 1976
Capt (later, Maj) Robert F. Picinus	8 September 1976
Capt James M. Randel	17 January 1977 <sup>44</sup>
Maj Kenneth R. Anderson	2 February 1977 <sup>45</sup>
Lt Col William B. Driggers, Jr.	1 September 1978
Maj Karl J. Woelz	4 August 1979
Maj Carl E. Gunderson	12 December 1980
Lt Col James L. Hendrickson	14 October 1983
Lt Col Sydney W. Griffin	14 February 1986 <sup>46</sup>
Maj Jonnie L. Wright	14 November 1988

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<sup>44</sup> 56 CSG SO G-2, 17 January 1977

<sup>45</sup> 56 CSG SO G-7, 2 February 1977

<sup>46</sup> 56 CSG SO G-19, 13 February 1986

**Commanders. (Continued)**

Capt John W. Probst	12 July 1990
Lt Col David H. Donatelli	30 August 1990
Maj J. Karen Fiedor	28 June 1993-4 January 1994
Maj Edward N. Addison	1 April 1994 <sup>47</sup>
Maj Eugene V. Morabito	29 May 1996-1 July 1997. <sup>48</sup>

***56th Security Forces Squadron [1 July 1997-.]***

Maj Eugene V. Morabito	1 July 1997	
Capt Heidi L. Scheppers	1 May 1998 <sup>49</sup>	
Lt Col Allen J. Jamerson	1 July 1998 <sup>50</sup>	(Brigadier General)
Maj Tracey M. Meck	5 July 2000 <sup>51</sup>	
Maj Michael D. Ross, Sr.	23 May 2002 <sup>52</sup>	
Maj Stephen R. Mezhir	14 June 2004 <sup>53</sup>	
Capt L.D. Harper	19 October 2006 <sup>54</sup>	
Lt Col Stephen R. Mezhir	16 May 2007 <sup>55</sup>	
Maj Christopher J. DeGuelle	13 July 2007 <sup>56</sup>	
Lt Col Michael J. Borders, Jr.	13 June 2008 <sup>57</sup>	
Maj Gerald C. Mulhollen, Jr.	14 June 2010 <sup>58</sup>	
Maj Sean R. Gibbs	6 July 2012 <sup>59</sup>	
Capt Andrew M. Stolten	6 September 2014 <sup>60</sup>	
Maj Scott A. Haselden	12 February 2015-Present. <sup>61</sup>	

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<sup>47</sup> [58 SG SO G-01, 7 July 1993

<sup>48</sup> 56 SG SO GA-04, 20 May 1996

<sup>49</sup> 56 SFS SO GA-08, 27 April 1998

<sup>50</sup> 56 SFS SO GA-09, 29 June 1998

<sup>51</sup> 56 SFS SO GA-002, 13 September 2000

<sup>52</sup> 56 SFS SO GA-001, 2 July 2002

<sup>53</sup> 56 SFS SO SFS-004, 25 June 2004

<sup>54</sup> 56 MSG SO MSG-07-01, 19 October 2006

<sup>55</sup> 56 MSG SO MSG-07-01, 19 October 2006

<sup>56</sup> 56 MSG SO MSG-07-09, 3 July 2007

<sup>57</sup> 56 SFS SO G-021, 15 May 2008

<sup>58</sup> 56 MSG SO G-015, 14 June 2010

<sup>59</sup> 56 FW SO G-024, 3 July 2012

<sup>60</sup> 56 MSG SO G-33-14, 21 August 2014

<sup>61</sup> 56 MSG SO GS-01-15, 15 January 2015

**Narrative.**

The 56th Security Forces Squadron's lineage makes it one of the oldest wing units. Designated Squadron "B," 56th Airdrome Group on 28 July 1947. It was activated 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 Air Police Squadron, Fighter, Jet, which was constituted on 14 June 1948. On 12 October 1948, the two were consolidated. Activated on 1 August 1948, it was assigned to the 56th Air Base Group. On 20 January 1950, the squadron was redesignated the 56th Air Police Squadron. It inactivated on 6 February 1952.

Reactivated on 15 February 1963, it was organized on 1 April 1963 at K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base, Michigan, under the 56th Air Base (later, 56th Combat Support) Group. The squadron was discontinued, and inactivated, on 1 January 1964.

On 16 March 1967, the unit was redesignated and activated as the 56th Security Police Squadron. On 8 April 1967, it was organized at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, and assigned to the 56th Combat Support (later, 56th Support) Group. While in Thailand, the squadron earned 12 Campaign Streamers, 3 Presidential Unit Citations, 5 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device, and a Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm. It also took part in the recovery mission for the crew of the SS Mayaguez.

On 30 June 1975, the squadron moved to MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. It was inactivated on 4 January 1994.

On 1 April 1994, the unit was reactivated at Luke AFB, Arizona, under the 56th Support (later, 56th Mission Support) Group. On 1 July 1997, it was redesignated as the 56th Security Forces Squadron. Today it provides premier security, law enforcement and force protection for the Luke community while preparing for expeditionary requirements.

**Date Prepared.** 6 December 1996

**Prepared by** William J. Allen

**Updated** 26 June 2015

**Updated by** Rick Griset