

SYSTEM_SYNC

56th Communications Squadron

Change of Command Ceremony



16 June 2026
Luke Air Force Base, Arizona

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KEY PERSONNEL

PRESIDING OFFICER

Colonel Darryl J. Hebert Jr.

OUTGOING COMMANDER

Lieutenant Colonel Bori S. Um

INCOMING COMMANDER

Major Justin N. Clarke

NARRATOR

Senior Airman Jordan D. Clark

GUIDON BEARER

Master Sergeant Tarrah Hill



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Opening Narration

Arrival of the Official Party

Presentation of the Colors

National Anthem

First Lieutenant Robyn C. Soh

Invocation

Chaplain William A. Langston

Remarks

Colonel Darryl J. Hebert Jr.

Medal Presentation

Remarks

Lieutenant Colonel Bori S. Um

Change of Command

Remarks

Major Justin N. Clarke

Air Force Song

Departure of the Official Party

Closing Narration

Lieutenant Colonel Bori S. Um

Lieutenant Colonel Bori S. Um is the outgoing Commander, 56th Communications Squadron, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Lt Col Um led 107 military, civil service, and contractor personnel responsible for providing the command, control, communications, computer and information services in support of the Fighter Wing's mission to "train the world's greatest fighter pilots and combat-ready Airmen." The squadron provides cyber capabilities to 7,000 Airmen, 1,043 facilities, Gila Bend Auxiliary Airfield, and the Barry M. Goldwater Range in support of F-16 and F-35 fighter aircraft operations at the Air Force's largest fighter wing. Prior to this assignment, Lt Col Um was an academic fellow and faculty instructor in the department of Joint Warfighting at Air Command and Staff College.



Lt Col Um commissioned through the US Air Force Officer Training School in 2009. He has served in various units at the squadron, Numbered Air Force, Major Command, and Combatant Command levels including Special Operations and conventional Joint Task Forces. Also, Lt Col Um has deployed in support of Headquarters USCENTCOM's Theater Network Operations Center and to Afghanistan in support of US, NATO, and Afghan National Army Special Operations forces. Furthermore, his experience building partner capacity in the USINOPACOM theater has paved the way for collaborative efforts in a time of great power competition.

EDUCATION

2008 Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

2009 Basic Communications Officer Training, Keesler AFB, MS

2009 Engineering Communications Officer Training, Keesler AFB, MS

2010 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, AL

2015 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL

2015 Master of Art, Criminal Justice, American Military University, Charlestown, WV

2023 Master of Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL

2024 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL, in correspondence

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Jun 2009 – Jun 2010, C4 Systems Engineer, 608th Air Communications Squadron, United States Strategic Command Air Operations Center, Barksdale AFB, LA
2. Jun 2010 – Dec 2010, Executive Officer, Communications and Information Directorate, Headquarters Eighth Air Force, Barksdale AFB, LA
3. Dec 2010 – Jun 2012, Flight Commander, Plans and Resources, 608th Air Communications Squadron, United States Strategic Command Air Operations Center, Barksdale AFB, LA
4. Jun 2012 – Oct 2013, Deputy Branch Chief, Mission Systems and Infrastructure, Communications and Information Directorate, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI
5. Oct 2013 – Nov 2014, Flight Commander, Operations, 747th Communications Squadron, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI (Mar 2014 – Oct 2014, Chief Watch Officer, USCENTCOM CCI6/DISA CENT, MacDill AFB, FL)
6. Nov 2014 – Jun 2015, Executive Officer, Headquarters 15th Wing, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI
7. Jun 2015 – Jun 2016, Flight Commander, Mission Systems, 51st Combat Communications Squadron, 5th Combat Communications Group, Robins AFB, GA
8. Jun 2016 – Jun 2017, Flight Commander, Logistics and Supply, 5th Combat Communications Support Squadron, 5th Combat Communications Group, Robins AFB, GA (Jan 2017 – Aug 2017, J6, Special – Mission Wing, Special Operations Advisory Team, Kandahar, Afghanistan)
9. Jun 2017 – Jun 2018, Chief of Operations, 52nd Combat Communications Squadron, 5th Combat Communications Group, Robins AFB, GA
10. Jun 2018 – Jul 2020, Cyber Planner-Information Operations, Operations Directorate, Headquarters Special Operations Command Pacific, Camp H.M. Smith, HI
11. Jul 2020 – Jul 2021, Director of Operations, 65th Air Base Squadron, 65th Air Base Group, Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal
12. Jul 2021 – Jul 2022, Deputy Branch Chief, Expeditionary Communications, Communications Directorate, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA
13. Jul 2022 – Jul 2023, Student, 38th Student Squadron, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
14. Jul 2023 – Jun 2024, Academic Fellow and Faculty Instructor, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
15. Jun 2024 – Present, Commander, 56th Communications Squadron, Luke AFB, AZ

Major Justin N. Clarke

Major Justin N. Clarke is the incoming Commander, 56th Communications Squadron, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Major Clarke served as the Operations Flight Commander, 333rd Recruiting Squadron, Patrick Space Force Base, Florida. He leads 76 recruiters across nine flights spanning Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, ensuring the Air Force meets its manning requirements through strategic planning, marketing, lead generation, development, processing, and enlistments.



Major Clarke was commissioned in the Air Force in May of 2013. He began his career as Deputy Lead, Production Center, Air Operations Center Program Office, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, supporting modernization and sustainment efforts for the Command-and-Control Directorate (2015 – 2018). In 2018, he transitioned to Kleine Brogel Air Base, Belgium, as Communications Flight Commander, overseeing Nuclear Command, Control, and Communication systems in support of NATO's nuclear deterrence mission. In 2020, Major Clarke was selected to serve as the J6 Director, Joint Task Force-Bravo, Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, where he directed expeditionary communications for humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations in Central America. From 2021 to 2023, he led the Air Force Communications Security Audit Team at Scott Air Force Base, managing inspections for 313 accounts supporting 246,000 users across 167 installations.

EDUCATION

- 2012 - Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering, West Virginia University
- 2019 - Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base
- 2019 - Master of Science in Cyber Security and Digital Forensics, University of Maryland
- 2024 - Air Command and Staff College, Correspondence, Maxwell Air Force Base

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 2013 - February 2015, Student, 333 Training Squadron, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi
2. February 2015 - February 2018, Deputy Lead of Production Center, Air Operations Center Program Office, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia
3. February 2018 - February 2020, Communications Flight Commander, 701 Munitions Support Squadron, Kleine Brogel Air Base, Belgium
4. February 2020 - October 2020, Chief of End User Devices, Headquarters Cyberspace Capabilities Center, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois
5. October 2020 - April 2021, J6 Director, Joint Task Force - Bravo, Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras
6. April 2021 – July 2023, Chief of COMSEC Audits, Headquarters Cyberspace Capabilities Center, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois
7. July 2023 – Present, Operations Flight commander, 333 Recruiting Squadron, Patrick Space Force Base, Florida

56th Communications Squadron, Luke AFB

The 56th Communications Squadron was first activated as the 56th Communications Squadron, Fighter Jet, on 1 Aug 1948, and assigned to the 56th Air Base Group at Selfridge AFB, Michigan. The squadron's mission was to support the air defense tasking of the group's parent unit, the 56th Fighter Wing.

The unit was redesignated the 56th Communications Squadron on 20 January 1950 while still assigned to Selfridge AFB. On 6 February 1952, the organization was deactivated.

The squadron was reactivated on 1 October 1991 at MacDill AFB, Florida, and its squadron status was one effect of the USAF's conversion from the tri-deputy system to the objective wing organizational structure. The unit was assigned to the 56th Fighter Wing and supported the wing's mission of fighter training, first in the F-4 Phantom II Fighterbomber, and then in the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

The 1990's saw significant changes in the real-world political, economic, and military situation, and resulted in an assumed lessening of the threat facing the nation, which resulted in significant military drawdowns. As part of that drawdown, all units of the 56th Fighter Wing at MacDill were deactivated on 4 January 1994, while the wing itself remained active without personnel or equipment.

On 1 April 1994, the 56th Fighter Wing was reassigned to Luke AFB, and all 56th-numbered groups and squadrons were activated, including the 56th Communications Squadron. Today the 56th Communications Squadron and its parent unit, the 56th Fighter Wing, conduct a mission that has been synonymous with Luke AFB for 59 years: Train Fighter Pilots Second To None.

The background of the entire page is a soft, semi-transparent image of the United States flag, showing the stars and stripes in a wavy pattern. The text is overlaid on this background.

THE CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

The change of command ceremony is a military tradition deeply rooted in history. Historically, the passing of a unit's flag was accomplished in front of the unit so all could see and witness the changing of leadership.

This symbolic tradition has survived throughout military history. The modern ceremony continues to announce to all, the authority of the incoming commander in the finest of military traditions.

An American flag is shown in the top left corner, waving against a blue sky. In the top right corner, a bright sunburst radiates light. Three red stars are positioned above the title.

AIR FORCE SONG

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OFF WE GO INTO THE **WILD BLUE YONDER**,
CLIMBING HIGH INTO THE SUN;
HERE THEY COME ZOOMING TO MEET OUR THUNDER,
AT'EM NOW, GIVE'EM THE GUN!

★

DOWN WE DIVE, SPOUTING OUR FLAME FROM UNDER,
OFF WITH ONE HELLUVA ROAR!

WE LIVE IN FAME OR GO DOWN IN FLAME. HEY!
NOTHING'LL STOP THE US AIR FORCE!

