

## 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.<sup>1</sup>

Inactivated on 4 January 1994.<sup>2</sup>

Activated 1 April 1994.<sup>3</sup>



### Honors.

#### Decorations.

##### Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

- 1 July 1994-30 June 1996<sup>4</sup>
- 1 July 1996-30 June 1998<sup>5</sup>
- 1 July 1998-30 June 2000<sup>6</sup>
- 1 July 2001-30 June 2003<sup>7</sup>
- [1 July] 2003-30 June 2005<sup>8</sup>
- 1 July 2005-30 June 2006<sup>9</sup>
- 1 July 2006-30 June 2007<sup>10</sup>
- 1 July 2007-30 June 2008<sup>11</sup>
- 1 July 2008-30 June 2009<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991

<sup>2</sup> ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

<sup>3</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

<sup>4</sup> AETC SO GA-18, 15 November 1996

<sup>5</sup> AETC SO GA-12, 9 November 1998

<sup>6</sup> AETC SO GA-9, 8 December 2000

<sup>7</sup> AETC SO GA-55, 29 April 2004

<sup>8</sup> AETC SO GA-0052, 22 June 2006

<sup>9</sup> AETC SO GA-045, 8 May 2007

<sup>10</sup> AETC SO G-054, 28 February 2008

<sup>11</sup> AETC SO G-071, 3 April 2009

<sup>12</sup> AETC SO G-025, 11 March 2010

**Decorations. (Continued)**

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

1 July 2009-30 June 2010<sup>13</sup>  
1 July 2010-30 June 2011<sup>14</sup>  
1 July 2011-30 June 2012<sup>15</sup>  
1 July 2012-30 June 2013<sup>16</sup>  
1 July 2013-30 June 2014<sup>17</sup>  
1 July 2014-30 June 2015<sup>18</sup>  
1 July 2015-30 June 2016<sup>19</sup>  
1 July 2016-30 June 2017<sup>20</sup>  
1 July 2017-30 June 2018<sup>21</sup>  
1 July 2018-30 June 2019<sup>22</sup>

**Assignments.** 56th Air Base Group, 1 August 1948-6 February 1952. 56th Combat Support (later, 56th Support) Group, 1 October 1991<sup>23</sup>-1 January 1994. 56th Support (later, 56th Mission Support) Group on 1 April 1994-.<sup>24</sup>

**Stations.** Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan, 1 August 1948-6 February 1952. MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, 1 October 1991<sup>25</sup>-4 January 1994. Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 1 April 1994-.<sup>26</sup>

**Aircraft.** None.

---

<sup>13</sup> AETC SO G-086, 9 May 2011

<sup>14</sup> AETC SO G-171, 17 April 2012

<sup>15</sup> AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013

<sup>16</sup> AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014

<sup>17</sup> AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015

<sup>18</sup> AETC SO G-006, 14 October 2016

<sup>19</sup> AETC SO G-022, 22 March 2017

<sup>20</sup> AETC SO G-015, 19 Dec 2017

<sup>21</sup> AETC SO G-057, 20 May 2019

<sup>22</sup> AETC SO G-013, 18 Dec 2019

<sup>23</sup> TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991

<sup>24</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994; AETC SO G-02-20, 23 June 2002

<sup>25</sup> TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991

<sup>26</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

**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."

### Commanders.

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

Unknown

Unknown

#### *56th Communications Squadron* [20 January 1950-6 February 1952; 1 October 1991-4 January 1994; 1 April 1994-.]

Unknown

Unknown

Col Robert Popp  
Col Doreen M. Wolf  
Lt Col John C. Goodman  
Lt Col Stanley D. Howard  
Maj Robert J. Steele  
Lt Col Wilson D. Crafton  
Lt Col Jeffrey A. Corvey

by December 1991  
January 1992  
18 June 1992-4 January 1994  
1 April 1994<sup>27</sup>  
4 August 1994<sup>28</sup>  
1 July 1997<sup>29</sup>  
2 June 1999<sup>30</sup>

<sup>27</sup> [58 MSS SO SO-G-7, 1 October 1991]

<sup>28</sup> 56 CS SO SO-GQ-2, 4 August 1994

<sup>29</sup> 56 CS SO SO-G-9701, c. 30 June 1997

<sup>30</sup> 56 CS SO GS-002, 27 April 1999

## Commanders. (Continued)

Lt Col Frank Knickerbocker, IV	12 June 2001 <sup>31</sup>
Lt Col Eric J. Pierce	8 July 2003 <sup>32</sup>
Lt Col Timothy J. Pearson	9 June 2005 <sup>33</sup>
Maj Rashone J. Tate	5 June 2007 <sup>34</sup>
Lt Col David Hillman	22 June 2009 <sup>35</sup>
Maj (later, Lt Col) Zachary S. Warakomski	8 April 2011 <sup>36</sup>
Maj Raymond H. Chester, Jr.	14 June 2013 <sup>37</sup>
Maj (later, Lt Col) Lewis G. Sorvillo	5 June 2015 <sup>38</sup>
Maj (later, Lt Col) Nathaniel L. Edwards	19 June 2017 <sup>39</sup>
Maj Jesse J. Ellis	7 Jul 2020-Present. <sup>40</sup>

## 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 cyber and communication and information capabilities supporting Luke Air Force Base through the ongoing acquisition, installation, operation and maintenance of the latest available technologies.

**Locally Updated on** 21 September 2020

**Locally Updated by** Rick Griset

---

<sup>31</sup> 56 CS SO OS-TQ-002, 7 May 2001

<sup>32</sup> 56 CS SO 56 CS-G-2003-1, 7 July 2003

<sup>33</sup> 56 CS SO 56 CS GS-01, 8 June 2005

<sup>34</sup> 56 MSG SO MSG-07-06, 5 June 2007

<sup>35</sup> 56 MSG SO G-027, 22 June 2009

<sup>36</sup> 56 MSG SO G-004, 8 April 2011

<sup>37</sup> 56 MSG SO GS-14, 14 June 2013

<sup>38</sup> 56 MSG SO GS-07-15, 5 May 2015

<sup>39</sup> 56 MSG SO G-08-17, 5 May 2017

<sup>40</sup> 56 MSG SO G-20-010, 9 June 2020