56th Operations Support Squadron

Lineage.
Constituted as the 56th Airdrome Squadron on 25 January 1943.
Activated on 1 February 1943.
Redesignated 56th Airdrome Squadron (Special) on 16 April 1943.
Disbanded on 1 April 1944.

Activated on 1 November 1991.\(^1\)

Activated on 1 April 1994.\(^2\)

Honors.

Service Streamers.
World War II American Theater

Decorations.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

\(^1\) TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991
\(^2\) AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994
\(^3\) AETC SO GA-18, 15 November 1996
\(^4\) AETC SO GA-12, 9 November 1998
\(^5\) AETC SO GA-9, 8 December 2000
\(^6\) AETC SO GA-55, 29 April 2004
\(^7\) AETC SO GA-0052, 22 June 2006
\(^8\) AETC SO GA-045, 8 May 2007
\(^9\) AETC SO G-054, 28 February 2008
\(^10\) AETC SO G-071, 3 April 2009
Decorations. (Continued)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (Continued)

1 July 2008-30 June 2009
1 July 2009-30 June 2010
1 July 2010-30 June 2011
1 July 2011-30 June 2012
1 July 2012-30 June 2013
1 July 2013-30 June 2014
1 July 2014-30 June 2015
1 July 2018-30 June 2019

Squadron – No Total Aerial Victory Credits. Squadron Aces: None.

Assignments. Second Air Force, 1 February 1943-1 April 1944. 56th Operations Group, 1 November 1991-20 July 1993. 56th Operations Group, 1 April 1994-


Aircraft. None.

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11 AETC SO G-025, 11 March 2010
12 AETC SO G-086, 9 May 2011
13 AETC SO G-171/17 April 2012
14 AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013
15 AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014
16 AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015
17 AETC SO G-006, 14 October 2016
18 AETC SO G-013, 18 Dec 2019
19 TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991
20 AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994
21 TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991
22 AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

Blazon. On a disc Azure, a starburst of nine points Or in perspective, overall issuing from dexter base to sinister a demi-wizard in profile, face and hand Gold Brown; eye, hair, mustache and beard Sable; hat and cloak Gules garnished of the fourth, extending his dexter hand towards an eagle volant from sinister chief of the second, head Argent, feet of the third, langued and claws of the fifth; all within a narrow border Red.

Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Red border and inscribed “56TH OPERATIONS SUPPORT SQ” in Red letters.

Motto. Wizards.

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 golden radiance joining the wizard and the eagle is indicative of the myriad missions the unit performs and is a shining example for others to follow. The eagle's outstretched wing signifies the unit's far-reaching impact. The wizard embodies the wisdom and skill of Air Force leadership.

Commanders.

56th Airdrome Squadron [1 February 1943-16 April 1943]  
Unknown  Unknown

56th Airdrome Squadron (Special) [16 April 1943-1 April 1944]  
Unknown  Unknown

Unknown  Unknown  
Lt Col William T. Edwards  August 1993-4 January 1994
Commanders. (Continued)

Lt Col Thomas K. Mascot   1 April 1994
Lt Col Robert M. Parker   4 August 1994
Lt Col Bennett M. Bitler   29 August 1996
Lt Col Khrisitan D. Skinner  1 July 1998
Lt Col Charles W. Johnson   5 April 2000
Lt Col David L. Orr   10 July 2001
Lt Col Jeffrey M. Arkell   13 June 2002
Lt Col Brian M. Schaaf   15 January 2004
Lt Col David J. Julazadeh   13 May 2005
Lt Col Matthew B. Willis   25 April 2008
Lt Col William Jones   2 March 2009
Lt Col John W. Bosone   6 May 2011
Lt Col Keith P. Rockow   14 Dec 2012
Lt Col Jason T. Hokaj   22 July 2014
Lt Col Paul A. Jelinek   3 June 2016
Lt Col Anthony T. St. Aubyn   23 May 2018
Lt Col Nicholas A. Suppa   29 May 2020-Present

Narrative.
The unit was originally constituted on 25 January 1943 as the 56th Airdrome Squadron and
activated on 1 February 1943 at Grand Island Army Air Base, Nebraska. It was assigned to
Second Air Force. On 25 March the unit shifted to Pocatello Army Air Base, Idaho. On 3 April
1943, the unit moved to Camp Williams, in central Wisconsin. On 16 April 1943, it was
redesignated as the 56th Airdrome Squadron (Special). What made airdrome squadrons special
was they were organized, trained and equipped for tactical employment as ground servicing units
to support the combat units stateside and/or in the combat zone. Their mission was to furnish all

23 [58 OSS SO SO-TC-133, 30 April 1993]
24 56 FW SO SO-G 002, 11 August 1994
25 56 FW SO SO-G 003, c. 30 Aug 1996
26 56 FW SO SO-GC 002, 29 June 1998
27 56 OSS SO GC-002, 24 March 2000
28 56 OSS SO GC-006, 2 July 2001
29 56 OSS SO GC-003, 5 June 2002
30 309 FS SO 56 OSS - G - 2004 - 1, 15 January 2004
31 56 OSS SO 56 OG-G-2005-09, 12 May 2005
32 56 OSS SO G-2007-001, 5 March 2007
33 56 MSG SO G-021, 27 February 2009
34 56 MSG SO G-009, 5 May 2011
35 56 FW SO G-02, 14 Dec 2012
36 56 MSG SO GS-28-14, 30 July 2014
37 56 MSG SO G-10-16, 1 June 2016
38 56 MSG SO G-09-18, 22 May 2018
39 56 MSG SO G-20-005, 28 May 2020
of the necessary "housekeeping" functions such as administration, mess and security, chemical and medical services, furnishing and supplying first and secondary echelon maintenance and supply, and organizing and operating airdromes. Airdrome squadrons were organized to meet the demand for a higher degree of mobility that was desired in warfare. It took about six weeks to move and set up a combat unit’s organic maintenance and support capabilities in a new location. The operational units could not go that long without maintenance and support functions and still be ready to conduct combat operations. Therefore, the special airdrome squadrons filled that role temporarily, either stateside or overseas. On 2 May 1943, the unit moved back to Grand Island Army Air Base. On 1 April 1944, it was disbanded. During World War II, the squadron supported Second Air Force bomber training operations.

On 28 October 1991, the unit was reconstituted and redesignated as the 56th Operations Support Squadron. On 1 November 1991, it activated at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, and was assigned to the 56th Operations Group. It inactivated on 4 January 1994.

When the wing moved to Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, the group and squadron reactivated here on 1 April 1994. In the modern era, the unit supports the wing’s mission to train the best F-16 Fighting Falcon and F-35A Lightning II pilots in the world. Today, the squadron provides multi-level operational support to the 56th Fighter Wing and Associate Units.

**Locally Updated on** 21 September 2020

**Locally Updated by** Rick Griset