

## 56th Medical Group



Col Jeffrey J. Freeland

### **Lineage.**

Constituted as USAF Regional Hospital, MacDill, on 18 March 1969.

Activated on 1 July 1969.

Redesignated 56th Medical Group on 15 March 1987.<sup>1</sup>

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

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

### **Honors.**

#### **Decorations.**

##### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Award**

1 July 1969-31 December 1969<sup>4</sup>

1 January 1977-1 January 1979<sup>5</sup>

1 July 1980-30 June 1982<sup>6</sup>

1 June 1984-31 May 1986<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> DAF/PRM 770q, 5 March 1987

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

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

<sup>4</sup> DAF SO GB-891, 4 November 1970

<sup>5</sup> DAF SO GB-719, 30 November 1979

<sup>6</sup> DAF SO GB-117, 22 February 1983

<sup>7</sup> DAF SO GB-275/1987

**Decorations. (Continued)**

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

1 May 1989-30 April 1990<sup>8</sup>  
1 May 1990-30 April 1991<sup>9</sup>  
1 July 1994-30 June 1996<sup>10</sup>  
1 July 1996-30 June 1998<sup>11</sup>  
1 July 1998-30 June 2000<sup>12</sup>  
1 July 2001-30 June 2003<sup>13</sup>  
[1 July] 2003-30 June 2005<sup>14</sup>  
1 July 2005-30 June 2006<sup>15</sup>  
1 July 2006-30 June 2007<sup>16</sup>  
1 July 2007-30 June 2008<sup>17</sup>  
1 July 2008-30 June 2009<sup>18</sup>  
1 July 2009-30 June 2010<sup>19</sup>  
1 July 2010-30 June 2011<sup>20</sup>  
1 July 2011-30 June 2012<sup>21</sup>  
1 July 2012-30 June 2013<sup>22</sup>  
1 July 2013-30 June 2014<sup>23</sup>  
1 July 2014-30 June 2015<sup>24</sup>  
1 July 2015-30 June 2016<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> TAC SO GA-048, 16 August 1990

<sup>9</sup> TAC SO GA-069, 26 September 1991

<sup>10</sup> AETC SO GA-18, 15 November 1996

<sup>11</sup> AETC SO GA-12, 9 November 1998

<sup>12</sup> AETC SO GA-9, 8 December 2000

<sup>13</sup> AETC SO GA-55, 29 April 2004

<sup>14</sup> AETC SO GA-0052, 22 June 2006

<sup>15</sup> AETC SO GA-045, 8 May 2007

<sup>16</sup> AETC SO G-054, 28 February 2008

<sup>17</sup> AETC SO G-071, 3 April 2009

<sup>18</sup> AETC SO G-025, 11 March 2010

<sup>19</sup> AETC SO G-086, 9 May 2011

<sup>20</sup> AETC SO G-171, 17 April 2012

<sup>21</sup> AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013

<sup>22</sup> AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014

<sup>23</sup> AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015

<sup>24</sup> AETC SO G-006, 14 October 2016

<sup>25</sup> AETC SO G-022, 22 March 2017

## PAST AND PRESENT UNITS ASSIGNED

<b>Currently Assigned Units</b>	<b>Time Frame Assigned</b>
<i>Squadrons</i>	
56th Aerospace Medicine Squadron	1 April 1994. <sup>26</sup>
56th Dental Squadron	1 April 1994. <sup>27</sup>
56th Medical Operations Squadron	1 April 1994. <sup>28</sup>
56th Medical Support Squadron	1 April 1994. <sup>29</sup>
<b>Previously Assigned Units</b>	<b>Time Frame Assigned</b>
<i>Squadrons</i>	
56th Tactical Hospital	
later, 56th Air Transportable Hospital	15-March 1987-4 January 1994. <sup>30</sup>

**Assignments.** 15th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 July 1969. 1st Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 October 1970. 56th Tactical Fighter (later, 56th Tactical Training; later, 56th Fighter) Wing, 30 June 1975-4 January 1994.<sup>31</sup> 56th Fighter Wing, 1 April 1994-.<sup>32</sup>

**Stations.** MacDill AFB, FL, 1 July 1969-4 January 1994.<sup>33</sup> Luke AFB, AZ, 1 April 1994-.<sup>34</sup>

**Aircraft.** None.

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

<sup>27</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

<sup>28</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

<sup>29</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

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

<sup>31</sup> TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975; ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

<sup>32</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

<sup>33</sup> ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

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

**Emblem.** [Group uses wing emblem with group designation on the scroll.] Emblem approved 16 May 2013.

**Blazon.** Tenné, a chevron Azure fimbriated Or, charged with two lightning bolts conjoined chevronwise of the third, all within a diminished bordure of the like.

Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed “56TH MEDICAL GROUP” in Blue letters.

**Motto.** None.

**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 emblem is symbolic of the Wing. The heraldic chevron represents support and signifies the Wing’s support of the Nation’s quest for peace. The lightning bolt represents the speed and aggressiveness with which the unit performs. The colors represent the Air Corps and commemorate the service of the 56th Fighter Group, whose honors and history the Wing inherits.

#### **Commanders.**

*USAF Regional Hospital, MacDill* [1 July 1969-15 March 1987]

Unknown	Unknown
Col John S. Flint	bef 23 January 1977 <sup>35</sup>
Col Frank E. Edmunds, Jr.	17 September 1978
Col James E. McClure	bef 5 July 1982
Lt Col Fredrick S. Arnold	bef 5 July 1982
Col William E. Palma	5 July 1982 <sup>36</sup>
Col Pedro N. Rivera	15 November 1984 <sup>37</sup>
Col Pedro N. Rivera	2 March 1986 <sup>38</sup>
Col Thomas F. Treat	9 May 1986
Col Martin I. Victor	23 May 1986
Col Karl N. Schaberl	16 July 1986 <sup>39</sup>
Col Martin I. Victor	29 July 1986-15 March 1987 <sup>40</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> 56 CSG SO G-5, 23 January 1977 [temp order for Col Smith]

<sup>36</sup> 56 CSG SO G-15, 4 August 1982

<sup>37</sup> 56 CSG SO G-35, 13 November 1984

<sup>38</sup> 56 CSG SO G-21, 2 March 1986

<sup>39</sup> 56 CSG SO G-50, 16 July 1986

<sup>40</sup> 56 CSG SO G-54, 29 July 1986

## Commanders. (Continued)

### *56th Medical Group* [15 March 1987-4 January 1994; 1 April 1994-.]

Col Martin I. Victor	15 March 1987
Col Mervin T. Avants, Jr.	14 September 1987 <sup>41</sup>
Col Martin I. Victor	10 October 1987 <sup>42</sup>
Col Gary K. Brandon	16 July 1990
Col Lynn M. Jones	6 June 1993 <sup>43</sup>
Col John J. Kalosis	August 1993-4 January 1994
Col Roger A. Beck	1 April 1994 <sup>44</sup>
Col Michael W. Lischak	7 August 1998 <sup>45</sup>
Col James Malenkos, III	11 July 2000 <sup>46</sup>
Col Donald E. Taylor	9 July 2002 <sup>47</sup>
Col Schuyler K. Geller	8 July 2004 <sup>48</sup>
Col Joseph P. Chozinski	7 June 2006 <sup>49</sup>
Col Mark J. Holland	11 May 2009 <sup>50</sup>
Col Yolanda D. Bledsoe	17 June 2011 <sup>51</sup>
Col Maureen A. Charles	18 July 2014 <sup>52</sup>
Col Jeffrey J. Freeland	22 July 2016- Present. <sup>53</sup>

**Narrative.** The 56th Medical Group was constituted on 18 March 1969 as the USAF Regional Hospital MacDill. It activated at MacDill AFB, Florida on 1 July 1969. The Hospital reported to the 15th Tactical Fighter Wing until 1 October 1970, when it began reporting to the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing. On 30 June 1975, the Hospital fell under the 56th Tactical Fighter (later, Tactical Training, then Fighter) Wing. The Hospital provided both in and out patient care for all personnel assigned to MacDill AFB, including Headquarters, U.S. Readiness Command and Headquarters, U.S. Central Command. On 15 March 1987, the Hospital was redesignated as the 56th Medical Group. On that date it established a subordinate organization, the 56th Tactical Hospital (alter the 56th Air Transportable Hospital). On 4 January 1994, the 56th Medical Group and its subordinate inactivated at MacDill AFB. On 1 April 1994, the 56th Medical

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<sup>41</sup> 56 CSG SO G-75, 14 September 1987

<sup>42</sup> 56 CSG SO G-4, 9 October 1987

<sup>43</sup> 56 MS SO G-002, 28 May 1993

<sup>44</sup> [58 MDG SO SO-GU-001, 26 January 1993]

<sup>45</sup> 56 MDG SO GU-008, 7 August 1998

<sup>46</sup> 56 MDG SO GU-012, 26 June 2000

<sup>47</sup> 56 MDG SO GU-003, 20 June 2002

<sup>48</sup> 56 MDG SO 56 MDG G-3, 12 July 2004

<sup>49</sup> 56 MDG SO 56 MDG G-3, 9 May 2006

<sup>50</sup> 56 MSG SO G-029, 13 May 2009

<sup>51</sup> 56 MDG SO 56 MSG G-013, 17 June 2011

<sup>52</sup> 56 MSG GS-26-14, 27 July 2014

<sup>53</sup> 56 MSG GS-21-16, 7 July 2016

Group reactivated at Luke AFB, Arizona, when the 56th Fighter Wing moved to the base. The group also activated four subordinate squadrons that day, 56th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, 56th Dental Squadron, 56th Medical Operations Squadron, and 56th Medical Support Squadron. During Fiscal Year 2005, Air Staff ordered a reduction in services. In September and October 2005, the group terminated the ambulatory procedure unit, operating rooms, Women's Health Clinic, and extended hours at the clinic and podiatry. In 2009, the group began teaching new nurses how to be Air Force nurses through the Nurse Transition Program at Scottsdale Healthcare System in Scottsdale, Arizona. In 2013, the group began a fellowship program with the Scottsdale Healthcare System which gave doctors experience with critical care and emergency trauma cases. Today the group provides Phase II Medical Laboratory Apprentice Training, which gives Laboratory Technician students hands on experience. The group also runs the Medical Simulation Center, which allows a myriad of diverse training programs from Resuscitation Skills, and Self-Aid/Buddy Care to Sustainment Trauma. The 56th Medical Group continues to deploy medical teams around the world to help in humanitarian operations.

**Updated** 22 August 2017

**Updated by** Rick Griset