

## 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.

Reconstituted, and redesignated 56th Operations  
Support Squadron, on 28 October 1991.

Activated on 1 November 1991.<sup>1</sup>

Inactivated on 4 January 1994.

Activated on 1 April 1994.<sup>2</sup>



### Honors.

#### *Service Streamers.*

**World War II American Theater**

### Decorations.

#### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

1 July 1994-30 June 1996<sup>3</sup>

1 July 1996-30 June 1998<sup>4</sup>

1 July 1998-30 June 2000<sup>5</sup>

1 July 2001-30 June 2003<sup>6</sup>

[1 July] 2003-30 June 2005<sup>7</sup>

1 July 2005-30 June 2006<sup>8</sup>

1 July 2006-30 June 2007<sup>9</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

<sup>3</sup> AETC SO GA-18, 15 November 1996

<sup>4</sup> AETC SO GA-12, 9 November 1998

<sup>5</sup> AETC SO GA-9, 8 December 2000

<sup>6</sup> AETC SO GA-55, 29 April 2004

<sup>7</sup> AETC SO GA-0052, 22 June 2006

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

<sup>9</sup> AETC SO G-054, 28 February 2008

**Decorations. (Continued)**

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

1 July 2007-30 June 2008<sup>10</sup>  
1 July 2008-30 June 2009<sup>11</sup>  
1 July 2009-30 June 2010<sup>12</sup>  
1 July 2010-30 June 2011<sup>13</sup>  
1 July 2011-30 June 2012<sup>14</sup>  
1 July 2012-30 June 2013<sup>15</sup>  
1 July 2013-30 June 2014<sup>16</sup>  
1 July 2014-30 June 2015<sup>17</sup>

**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<sup>18</sup>-20 July 1993. 56th Operations Group, 1 April 1994-<sup>19</sup>

**Stations.** Grand Island Army Air Base, Nebraska, 1 February 1943; Pocatello Army Air Base, Idaho, 25 March 1943; Camp Williams, Wisconsin, 3 April 1943; Grand Island Army Air Base, Nebraska, 2 May 1943-1 April 1944. MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, 1 November 1991<sup>20</sup>-4 January 1994. Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 1 April 1994-<sup>21</sup>

**Aircraft.** None.

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<sup>10</sup> AETC SO G-071, 3 April 2009

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

<sup>12</sup> AETC SO G-086, 9 May 2011

<sup>13</sup> AETC SO G-171/17 April 2012

<sup>14</sup> AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013

<sup>15</sup> AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014

<sup>16</sup> AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015

<sup>17</sup> AETC SO G-006, 14 October 2016

<sup>18</sup> TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991

<sup>19</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

<sup>20</sup> TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991

<sup>21</sup> AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

**Emblem.** Approved on 2 October 2001. Redrawn on 12 January 2016.

**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

**56th Operations Support Squadron [1 November 1991-4 January 1994;  
1 April 1994-.**

Unknown

Unknown

Lt Col Richard M. Sayers, Jr.

[1] November 1991-August 1993

Lt Col William T. Edwards

August 1993-4 January 1994

Lt Col Thomas K. Mascot

1 April 1994<sup>22</sup>

Lt Col Robert M. Parker

4 August 1994<sup>23</sup>

Lt Col Bennett M. Bitler

29 August 1996<sup>24</sup>

Lt Col Khristian D. Skinner

1 July 1998<sup>25</sup>

Lt Col Charles W. Johnson

5 April 2000<sup>26</sup>

Lt Col David L. Orr

10 July 2001<sup>27</sup>

Lt Col Jeffrey M. Arkell

13 June 2002<sup>28</sup>

Lt Col Brian M. Schaaf

15 January 2004<sup>29</sup>

Lt Col David J. Julazadeh

13 May 2005<sup>30</sup> [Brigadier General]

Lt Col Matthew B. Willis

25 April 2008<sup>31</sup>

Lt Col William Jones

2 March 2009<sup>32</sup>

Lt Col John W. Bosone

6 May 2011<sup>33</sup>

Lt Col Keith P. Rockow

14 Dec 2012<sup>34</sup>

Lt Col Jason T. Hokaj

22 July 2014<sup>35</sup>

Lt Col Paul A. Jelinek

3 June 2016-Present.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> [58 OSS SO SO-TC-133, 30 April 1993]

<sup>23</sup> 56 FW SO SO-G 002, 11 August 1994

<sup>24</sup> 56 FW SO SO-G 003, c. 30 Aug 1996

<sup>25</sup> 56 FW SO SO-GC 002, 29 June 1998

<sup>26</sup> 56 OSS SO GC-002, 24 March 2000

<sup>27</sup> 56 OSS SO GC-006, 2 July 2001

<sup>28</sup> 56 OSS SO GC-003, 5 June 2002

<sup>29</sup> 309 FS SO 56 OSS - G - 2004 - 1, 15 January 2004

<sup>30</sup> 56 OSS SO 56 OG-G-2005-09, 12 May 2005

<sup>31</sup> 56 OSS SO G-2007-001, 5 March 2007

<sup>32</sup> 56 MSG SO G-021, 27 February 2009

<sup>33</sup> 56 MSG SO G-009, 5 May 2011

<sup>34</sup> 56 FW SO G-02, 14 Dec 2012

<sup>35</sup> 56 MSG SO GS-28-14, 30 July 2014

<sup>36</sup> 56 MSG SO G-10-16, 1 June 2016

**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 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 delivers outstanding operational support to Luke Air Force Base and the local airspace.

**Locally Updated** 6 September 2017

**Locally Updated by** Rick Grisct