56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Lineage.
Designated Maintenance Squadron, 56th Maintenance and Supply Group, on 28 July 1947.
Organized on 15 August 1947.
Discontinued on 1 August 1948.

Consolidated (22 October 1984) with the 56th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron constituted on 17 June 1957.
Constituted on 17 June 1957.
Activated on 8 September 1957.
Discontinued, and inactivated, on 1 January 1964.1

激活于15 July 1974.2
去激活于30 June 1975.

Consolidated (22 October 1984) with the 56th Maintenance Squadron, Fighter, Jet, Constituted on 14 June 1948.
Activated 1 August 1948.
Redesignated 56th Maintenance Squadron on 20 January 1950.
Inactivated 6 February 1952.

Redesignated 56th Field Maintenance Squadron, and activated, on 16 March 1967.
Organized on 8 April 1967.3
Inactivated on 15 July 1974.4

激活于30 June 1975.5
Redesignated 56th Maintenance Squadron on 1 November 1991.6
Inactivated on 4 January 1994.7

Activated on 1 April 1994.8

1 AFOMO 90n, 16 September 1963 and SAC SO G-82, 25 September 1963
2 PACAF SO GA-20, 17 June 1974
3 PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967
4 PACAF SO GA-20, 17 June 1974
5 TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975
6 TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991
7 ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993
8 AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994
Honors.

Campaign Streamers.

Vietnam

- Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II [1967-1968]
- Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III [1968]\(^9\)
- Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV [1968-1969]
- Tet 1969 Counteroffensive [1969]
- Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969 [1969]
- Sanctuary Counteroffensive [1970]
- Southwest Monsoon [1970]\(^11\)
- Commando Hunt V [1970-1971]\(^12\)
- Commando Hunt VI [1971]\(^13\)
- Commando Hunt VII [1971-1972]\(^14\)
- Vietnam Cease Fire [1972-1973]\(^15\)

Decorations.

Presidential Unit Citation

- Southeast Asia 1 November 1968-1 May 1969\(^16\)
- Southeast Asia 1 October 1969-30 April 1970\(^17\)
- Southeast Asia 1 April 1972-22 February 1973

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award:

- 1 December 1970-30 November 1971 with Combat "V" Device\(^18\)
- 1 December 1971-29 February 1972 with Combat "V" Device\(^19\)
- 23 February 1973-28 February 1974 with Combat "V" Device\(^20\)
- 24 January-2 May 1975 with Combat "V" Device\(^21\)
- 1 January 1977-1 January 1979\(^22\)
- 1 July 1980-31 May 1982\(^23\)

---

\(^9\) PACAF SO G-184, 30 July 1969
\(^10\) PACAF SO G-352, 14 June 1971
\(^11\) PACAF SO GB-0019, 31 January 1974
\(^12\) PACAF SO GB-0022, 31 January 1974
\(^13\) PACAF SO GB-0025, 31 January 1974
\(^14\) PACAF SO GB-0027, 31 January 1974
\(^15\) PACAF SO GB-0187, 15 July 1974
\(^16\) DAF SO GB-552/1970
\(^17\) DAF SO GB-352, 14 June 1971
\(^18\) DAF SO GB-667, 28 September 1972
\(^19\) DAF SO GB-553, 31 July 1973
\(^20\) DAF SO GB-600, 17 July 1975
\(^21\) USAF SO GB-623, 10 August 1976
\(^22\) DAF SO GB-719, 30 November 1979
\(^23\) DAF SO GB-117, 22 February 1983
Decorations. (Continued)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (Continued)

1 June 1984-31 May 1986\textsuperscript{24}
1 May 1987-30 April 1989\textsuperscript{25}
1 May 1989-30 April 1990\textsuperscript{26}
1 May 1990-30 April 1991\textsuperscript{27}
1 July 1994-30 June 1996\textsuperscript{28}
1 July 1996-30 June 1998\textsuperscript{29}
1 July 1998-30 June 2000\textsuperscript{30}
1 July 2001-30 June 2003\textsuperscript{31}
[1 July] 2003-30 June 2005\textsuperscript{32}
1 July 2005-30 June 2006\textsuperscript{33}
1 July 2006-30 June 2007\textsuperscript{34}
1 July 2007-30 June 2008\textsuperscript{35}
1 July 2008-30 June 2009\textsuperscript{36}
1 July 2009-30 June 2010\textsuperscript{37}
1 July 2010-30 June 2011\textsuperscript{38}
1 July 2011-30 June 2012\textsuperscript{39}
1 July 2012-30 June 2013\textsuperscript{40}
1 July 2013-30 June 2014\textsuperscript{41}
1 July 2014-30 June 2015\textsuperscript{42}
1 July 2015-30 June 2016\textsuperscript{43}
1 July 2016-30 June 2017\textsuperscript{44}

\textsuperscript{24} DAF SO GB-275/1987
\textsuperscript{25} TAC SO GA-053, 29 August 1989
\textsuperscript{26} TAC SO GA-048, 16 August 1990
\textsuperscript{27} TAC SO GA-069, 26 September 1991
\textsuperscript{28} AETC SO GA-18, 15 November 1996
\textsuperscript{29} AETC SO GA-12, 9 November 1998
\textsuperscript{30} AETC SO GA-9, 8 December 2000
\textsuperscript{31} AETC SO GA-55, 29 April 2004
\textsuperscript{32} AETC SO GA-0052, 22 June 2006
\textsuperscript{33} AETC SO GA-045, 8 May 2007
\textsuperscript{34} AETC SO G-054, 28 February 2008
\textsuperscript{35} AETC SO G-071, 3 April 2009
\textsuperscript{36} AETC SO G-025, 11 March 2010
\textsuperscript{37} AETC SO G-086, 9 May 2011
\textsuperscript{38} AETC SO G-171, 17 April 2012
\textsuperscript{39} AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013
\textsuperscript{40} AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014
\textsuperscript{41} AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015
\textsuperscript{42} AETC SO G-006, 14 October 2016
\textsuperscript{43} AETC SO G-022, 22 March 2017
\textsuperscript{44} AETC SO G-015, 19 Dec 2017
Decorations. (Continued)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (Continued)

1 July 2017-30 June 201845
1 July 2018-30 June 201946

Special Honors.


Aircraft. None.

---

45 AETC SO G-057, 20 May 2019
46 AETC SO G-013, 18 Dec 2019
47 AFOMO 536m, 28 December 1960
48 AFOMO 90n, 16 September 1963 and SAC SO G-82, 25 September 1963
49 TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975
50 PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967
51 TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991
52 TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991
53 ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993
54 AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994; AETC SO G-02-20, 23 June 2002
55 AFOMO 90n, 16 September 1963 and SAC SO G-82, 25 September 1963
56 PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967
57 TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975
58 ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993
59 AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

**Blazon.** On a disc Azure, an equilateral triangle Or throughout, point to chief, charged by another smaller with point to base of the first; all within a narrow border Yellow.

Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed “56TH EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE SQ” in Yellow 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. Additionally, yellow denotes the thunderbolt, paying homage to the P-47 Thunderbolt heritage and underscoring the unit’s striking power. The triangle is known as the strongest geometrical shape and suggests the squadron’s strength in numbers. The three triangles signify the major functional areas: maintenance, munitions, and support equipment. Serving as a keystone, the inverted blue triangle, refers to the unit’s dedication to the Air Force Core Values of Integrity First, Service before Self, and Excellence in All We Do. When combined, all five triangles allude to the five distinct flights: aerospace, ground equipment, armament, fabrication, maintenance, and munitions.

**Commanders.**

*Maintenance Squadron, 56th Maintenance and Supply Group*  
[15 August 1947-1 August 1948]  
Unknown  
Unknown

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

*56th Maintenance Squadron*  
[20 January 1950-6 February 1952]  
Unknown  
Unknown
Commanders. (Continued)

**56th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron [8 September 1957-1 January 1964]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commander</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maj (later, Lt Col) Douglas W. Mauldin</td>
<td>bef 31 March 1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj H.L. Bogdanski</td>
<td>26 April 1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d Lt Frederick J. Heyer</td>
<td>1 July 1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj Paul A. Mickelsen</td>
<td>3 July 1963</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**56th Field Maintenance Squadron [8 April 1967-15 July 1974]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commander</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maj Winton W. Wilson</td>
<td>8 April 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt Robert N. Hancock</td>
<td>bef 30 August 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Lt Michael V. Flattery</td>
<td>bef 5 October 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj Albert S. Mercer</td>
<td>November 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt Col Richard J. Watson</td>
<td>bef 18 December 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt Col Harry E. Lyndes, Jr.</td>
<td>bef 30 June 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt Col John J. Byrne</td>
<td>bef 30 September 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt Col William N. Foster</td>
<td>bef 31 December 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt Col Joseph W. Norrbohl</td>
<td>c. 18 November 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt Col Robert B. Anderson</td>
<td>c. May 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt Col William R. Southerland</td>
<td>bef 31 March 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt James F. Brady</td>
<td>bef 10 September 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj Ronald W. Janssen</td>
<td>10 September 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt Robert L Walters</td>
<td>18 May 1974</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**56th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron [15 July 1974-30 June 1975].**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commander</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lt Col Wayne R. Bratcher</td>
<td>15 July 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt Col William H. Hester</td>
<td>13 February 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col William H. Lewis</td>
<td>25 March 1975-30 June 1975</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**56th Field Maintenance Squadron [30 June 1975-15 June 1977]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commander</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lt Col Richard J. Poulouit</td>
<td>30 June 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt Col Robert G. Carter</td>
<td>1 March 1977-15 June 1977</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

60 56 FMS SO 1, 8 April 1967
61 56 FMS SO G-1, 13 May 1974
62 56 FMS SO G-3, 20 June 1974
63 56 CSG SO G-11, 11 March 1977
Commanders. (Continued)


- Lt Col Robert G. Carter 15 June 1977
- Lt Col Billy A. Barrett 31 December 1977
- Lt Col Richard M. Higbie 1 June 1979
- Maj Michael O. Mullikin 10 July 1981
- Maj John T. Stephens 5 May 1983
- Lt Col Ferris O. Garrett, Jr. 5 August 1983
- Lt Col James W. Geith 11 Nov 1983
- Maj Devon L. Overmeyer, Jr. 5 December 1985
- Maj Patrick M. Thayer 2 June 1986
- Maj Donald J. Wetekam 10 July 1986 [Lieutenant General]
- Maj Patrick M. Thayer 20 January 1987
- Lt Col Peter R. Mooy 27 June 1988
- Maj Donald H. Campbell 13 June 1990-1 November 1991


- Lt Col Mark A. Taylor 1 November 1991-4 January 1994

---

64 56 TFW SO G-25, 1 June 1979
65 56 CSG SO G-15, 5 May 1983
66 56 CSG SO G-30, 5 August 1983
67 56 CSG SO G-48, 10 July 1986
68 56 CSG SO G-61, 27 June 1988
69 56 MSS SO G-009, 11 June 1990
70 ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993
Commanders. (Continued)

56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron [1 April 1994-.

Maj Danny D. Brandt 1 April 1994\textsuperscript{71}
Maj Roy G. Lanier, III 1 July 1994\textsuperscript{72}
Lt Col Danny R. Tipton 12 September 1996\textsuperscript{73}
Lt Col Dewey A. Holmes 18 September 1998\textsuperscript{74}
Lt Col Lorraine M. Souza 6 October 1999\textsuperscript{75}
Lt Col James L. Broome, III 20 November 2001\textsuperscript{76}
Maj John C. Kubinec 1 April 2003\textsuperscript{77} [Brigadier General]
Lt Col Timothy S. Molnar 29 June 2005\textsuperscript{78}
Lt Col Benjamin L. Alley 6 July 2007\textsuperscript{79}
Lt Col Paul W. Sturges 30 June 2008\textsuperscript{80}
Maj Dominic P. Clementz 6 July 2010\textsuperscript{81}
Maj Jeffrey E. Campbell 22 June 2012\textsuperscript{82}
Lt Col Christopher S. Barack 18 January 2013\textsuperscript{83}
Maj Kathryn N. Roman 19 March 2013\textsuperscript{84}
Maj (later, Lt Col) Scott B. Hall 19 March 2013\textsuperscript{85}
Maj Jeffrey R. Kaepp 11 July 2016\textsuperscript{86}
Maj Richard P. Wille 10 Aug 2018-Present\textsuperscript{87}

Narrative.
The 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron’s lineage makes it one of the oldest units in the wing. On 28 July 1947, it was designated the Maintenance Squadron, 56th Maintenance and Supply Group. It was organized on 15 August 1947, at Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan, and assigned to the 56th Maintenance and Supply Group. On 1 August 1948, the unit was discontinued.

\textsuperscript{71}[58 MSS SO SO-G-71, 24 June 1992]
\textsuperscript{72}56 EMS SO SO-GN-0002, 20 June 1994
\textsuperscript{73}56 EMS SO SO-GN-0001, 11 September 1996
\textsuperscript{74}56 EMS SO SO-GN-0001, 11 September 1996
\textsuperscript{75}56 EMS SO SO-GN-0001, 6 October 1999
\textsuperscript{76}56 EMS SO SO-GM-0001, 16 November 2001
\textsuperscript{77}56 EMS SO SO-GN-0006, 1 April 2003
\textsuperscript{78}56 EMS SO 56 EMS GS-04-02, 29 June 2005
\textsuperscript{79}56 MXG SO SO-GS-001, 7 July 2007
\textsuperscript{80}56 MSG SO G-027, 18 August 2008
\textsuperscript{81}56 MSG SO G-021, 6 July 2010
\textsuperscript{82}56 FW SO G-018, 26 June 2012
\textsuperscript{83}56 MSG SO GS-5, 18 Jan 2013
\textsuperscript{84}56 MSG SO GS-9, 19 March 2013
\textsuperscript{85}56 MSG SO GS-22-15, 31 July 2015
\textsuperscript{86}56 MSG SO G-08-16, 17 May 2016
\textsuperscript{87}56 MSG SO G-28-18, 14 August 2018
On 22 October 1984, the Air Force consolidated that unit with two other squadrons. One of those units was 56th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. It was constituted on 17 June 1957, and activated on 8 September 1957 at O'Hare International Airport, Illinois, and assigned to the 56th Fighter Group (Air Defense). On 1 October 1959, the squadron moved to K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base, Michigan. On 1 February 1961, it was reassigned to the 56th Fighter Wing (Air Defense). On 1 January 1964, the squadron was discontinued, and inactivated.

For about a year near the end of the Vietnam War, the unit was reactivated on 15 July 1974 at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, under the 56th Special Operations Wing and inactivated on 30 June 1975.

The other squadron consolidated with the original unit was the 56th Maintenance Squadron, Fighter, Jet. Constituted on 14 June 1948, the 56th Maintenance Squadron, Fighter, Jet activated on 1 August 1948 and replaced the original unit at Selfridge AFB. The new unit was assigned to the 56th Maintenance and Supply Group. On 20 January 1950, it was redesignated the 56th Maintenance Squadron. It inactivated on 6 February 1952.

On 16 March 1967, the 56th Maintenance Squadron was redesignated and activated as the 56th Field Maintenance Squadron. On 8 April 1967, it was organized at Nakhon Phanom RTAB assigned to the 56th Air Commando (later, 56th Special Operations) Wing. The squadron inactivated on 15 July 1974 and turned over its personnel and assets to the 56th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. While in Thailand, the squadron earned 12 Campaign Streamers, 3 Presidential Unit Citations, 3 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device, and a Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.

On 30 June 1975, the 56th Field Maintenance Squadron activated at MacDill AFB, Florida, where it reported to the 56th Tactical Fighter (later, 56th Tactical Training, 56th Fighter) Wing. On 15 June 1977, it was redesignated the 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron. On 1 November 1991, it was redesignated the 56th Maintenance Squadron and reassigned to the 56th Logistics Group. On 4 January 1994, the unit inactivated.

On 21 March 1994, it was again redesignated as the 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron. On 1 April 1994, it reactivated at Luke AFB, Arizona, assigned to the 56th Logistics (later, 56th Maintenance) Group. Today, it provides safe and reliable aircraft, equipment, munitions, and maintenance to train the world's greatest fighter pilots and combat ready Airmen.

Locally Updated on 20 February 2020

Locally Updated by Rick Griset