

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

Activated on 15 July 1974.²
Inactivated on 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

Activated on 30 June 1975.⁵
Redesignated 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron on 15 June 1977.
Redesignated 56th Maintenance Squadron on 1 November 1991.⁶
Inactivated on 4 January 1994.⁷

Redesignated 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron on 21 March 1994.
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]
Vietnam Winter/Spring 1970 [1969-1970]¹⁰
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 1969¹⁶
Southeast Asia 1 October 1969-30 April 1970¹⁷
Southeast Asia 1 April 1972-22 February 1973

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award:

1 December 1970-30 November 1971 with Combat "V" Device¹⁸
1 December 1971-29 February 1972 with Combat "V" Device¹⁹
23 February 1973-28 February 1974 with Combat "V" Device²⁰
24 January-2 May 1975 with Combat "V" Device²¹
1 January 1977-1 January 1979²²
1 July 1980-31 May 1982²³

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 1986²⁴
1 May 1987-30 April 1989²⁵
1 May 1989-30 April 1990²⁶
1 May 1990-30 April 1991²⁷
1 July 1994-30 June 1996²⁸
1 July 1996-30 June 1998²⁹
1 July 1998-30 June 2000³⁰
1 July 2001-30 June 2003³¹
[1 July] 2003-30 June 2005³²
1 July 2005-30 June 2006³³
1 July 2006-30 June 2007³⁴
1 July 2007-30 June 2008³⁵
1 July 2008-30 June 2009³⁶
1 July 2009-30 June 2010³⁷
1 July 2010-30 June 2011³⁸
1 July 2011-30 June 2012³⁹
1 July 2012-30 June 2013⁴⁰
1 July 2013-30 June 2014⁴¹
1 July 2014-30 June 2015⁴²
1 July 2015-30 June 2016⁴³
1 July 2016-30 June 2017⁴⁴

²⁴ DAF SO GB-275/1987

²⁵ TAC SO GA-053, 29 August 1989

²⁶ TAC SO GA-048, 16 August 1990

²⁷ TAC SO GA-069, 26 September 1991

²⁸ AETC SO GA-18, 15 November 1996

²⁹ AETC SO GA-12, 9 November 1998

³⁰ AETC SO GA-9, 8 December 2000

³¹ AETC SO GA-55, 29 April 2004

³² AETC SO GA-0052, 22 June 2006

³³ AETC SO GA-045, 8 May 2007

³⁴ AETC SO G-054, 28 February 2008

³⁵ AETC SO G-071, 3 April 2009

³⁶ AETC SO G-025, 11 March 2010

³⁷ AETC SO G-086, 9 May 2011

³⁸ AETC SO G-171, 17 April 2012

³⁹ AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013

⁴⁰ AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014

⁴¹ AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015

⁴² AETC SO G-006, 14 October 2016

⁴³ AETC SO G-022, 22 March 2017

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.

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross With Palm, 8 April 1967-28 January 1973.

Assignments. 56th Maintenance and Supply Group 15 August 1947-1 August 1948. 56th Maintenance and Supply Group 1 August 1948-6 February 1952. 56th Fighter Group (Air Defense), 8 September 1957-31 January 1961⁴⁷; 56th Fighter Wing (Air Defense), 1 February 1961-1 January 1964.⁴⁸ 56th Air Commando (later, 56th Special Operations, 56th Tactical Fighter⁴⁹, 56th Tactical Training, 56th Fighter) Wing 8 April 1967⁵⁰-1 November 1991.⁵¹ 56th Logistics Group, 1 November 1991⁵²-4 January 1994.⁵³ 56th Logistics (later, 56th Maintenance) Group, 1 April 1994-.⁵⁴

Stations. Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan, 15 August 1947-6 February 1952. O'Hare International Airport, Illinois, 8 September 1957; K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base, Michigan, 1 October 1959-1 January 1964.⁵⁵ Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, 8 April 1967⁵⁶-30 June 1975. MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, 30 June 1975⁵⁷-4 January 1994.⁵⁸ Luke AFB, Arizona, 1 April 1994-.⁵⁹

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

Emblem. Approved on 27 August 1977. Redrawn on 15 May 2019.

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]

Unknown	Unknown
Maj (later, Lt Col) Douglas W. Mauldin	bef 31 March 1963
Maj H.L. Bogdanski	26 April 1963
2d Lt Frederick J. Heyer	1 July 1963
Maj Paul A. Mickelsen	3 July 1963

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

Maj Winton W. Wilson	8 April 1967 ⁶⁰
Capt Robert N. Hancock	bef 30 August 1967
1st Lt Michael V. Flattery	bef 5 October 1967
Maj Albert S. Mercer	November 1967
Lt Col Richard J. Watson	bef 18 December 1968
Unknown	Unknown
Lt Col Harry E. Lyndes, Jr.	bef 30 June 1970
Lt Col John J. Byrne	bef 30 September 1970
Lt Col William N. Foster	bef 31 December 1970
Lt Col Joseph W. Norrbohm	c. 18 November 1971
Lt Col Robert B. Anderson	c. May 1972
Lt Col Willam R. Southerland	bef 31 March 1973
Capt James F. Brady	bef 10 September 1973
Maj Ronald W. Janssen	10 September 1973
Capt Robert L. Walters	18 May 1974 ⁶¹
Maj Ronald W. Janssen	20 June 1974 – 15 July 1974. ⁶²

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

Lt Col Wayne R. Bratcher	15 July 1974
Lt Col William H. Hester	13 February 1975
Col William H. Lewis	25 March 1975-30 June 1975

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

Lt Col Richard J. Pouloit	30 June 1975
Lt Col Robert G. Carter	1 March 1977-15 June 1977 ⁶³

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)

56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron [15 June 1977-1 November 1991

Lt Col Robert G. Carter	15 June 1977	
Lt Col Billy A. Barrett	31 December 1977	
Lt Col Richard M. Higbie	1 June 1979 ⁶⁴	
Maj Michael O. Mullikin	10 July 1981	
Maj John T. Stephens	5 May 1983 ⁶⁵	
Lt Col Ferris O. Garrett, Jr.	5 August 1983 ⁶⁶	
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 ⁶⁷	[Lieutenant General]
Maj Patrick M. Thayer	20 January 1987	
Lt Col Peter R. Mooy	27 June 1988 ⁶⁸	
Maj Donald H. Campbell	13 June 1990-1 November 1991. ⁶⁹	

56th Maintenance Squadron [1 November 1991-4 January 1994]

Lt Col Mark A. Taylor	1 November 1991-4 January 1994. ⁷⁰	
-----------------------	---	--

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

⁷¹ [58 MSS SO SO-G-71, 24 June 1992]

⁷² 56 EMS SO SO-GN-0002, 20 June 1994

⁷³ 56 EMS SO SO-GN-0001, 11 September 1996

⁷⁴ 56 EMS SO SO-GN-0001, 26 August 1998

⁷⁵ 56 EMS SO SO-GN-0001, 6 October 1999

⁷⁶ 56 EMS SO SO-GM-0001, 16 November 2001

⁷⁷ 56 EMS SO SO-GN-0006, 1 April 2003

⁷⁸ 56 EMS SO 56 EMS GS-04-02, 29 June 2005

⁷⁹ 56 MXG SO SO-GS-001, 7 July 2007

⁸⁰ 56 MSG SO G-027, 18 August 2008

⁸¹ 56 MSG SO G-021, 6 July 2010

⁸² 56 FW SO G-018, 26 June 2012

⁸³ 56 MSG SO GS-5, 18 Jan 2013

⁸⁴ 56 MSG SO GS-9, 19 March 2013

⁸⁵ 56 MSG SO GS-22-15, 31 July 2015

⁸⁶ 56 MSG SO G-08-16, 17 May 2016

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 Grisct