

56th Force Support Squadron

Lineage.

Designated Squadron "D", 56th Airdrome Group,
on 27 July 1947.¹

Organized on 15 August 1947.

Discontinued on 1 August 1948.

Consolidated (10 October 1984) with the
56th Food Service Squadron.

Constituted as 56th Food Service Squadron,
Fighter, Jet, on 14 June 1948.

Activated on 1 August 1948.

Redesignated 56th Food Service Squadron on
20 January 1950.

Inactivated on 6 February 1952.

Consolidated (10 October 1984) with the 56th
Services Squadron.

Constituted, and activated, on 16 March 1967.

Organized on 8 April 1967.²

Inactivated on 28 February 1975.

Activated on 30 June 1975.³

Redesignated 56th Morale, Welfare, Recreation and Services Squadron on 4 September 1992.⁴

Inactivated on 4 January 1994.⁵

Redesignated 56th Services Squadron on 21 March 1994.

Activated on 1 April 1994.⁶

Redesignated 56th Force Support Squadron on 26 February 2009.⁷



¹ 56 FW GO-1, c. 15 August 1947

² PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

³ TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975

⁴ ACC SO GB-124, 21 August 1992

⁵ ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

⁶ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

⁷ AETC SO G-09-9, 26 February 2009

Honors.

Campaign Streamers.

Vietnam

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II [1967-1968]
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III [1968]⁸
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV [1968-1969]
Tet 1969 Counteroffensive [1969]
Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969 [1969]
Vietnam Winter/Spring 1970 [1969-1970]⁹
Sanctuary Counteroffensive [1970]
Southwest Monsoon [1970]¹⁰
Commando Hunt V [1970-1971]¹¹
Commando Hunt VI [1971]¹²
Commando Hunt VII [1971-1972]¹³
Vietnam Cease Fire [1972-1973]¹⁴

Decorations.

Presidential Unit Citations

Southeast Asia 1 November 1968-1 May 1969¹⁵
Southeast Asia 1 October 1969-30 April 1970¹⁶
Southeast Asia 1 April 1972-22 February 1973.¹⁷

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 June 1970-31 May 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
1 January 1977-1 January 1979²¹
1 July 1980-31 May 1982²²
1 June 1984-31 May 1986²³

⁸ PACAF SO G-184, 30 July 1969

⁹ PACAF SO G-352, 14 June 1971

¹⁰ PACAF SO GB-0019, 31 January 1974

¹¹ PACAF SO GB-0022, 31 January 1974

¹² PACAF SO GB-0025, 31 January 1974

¹³ PACAF SO GB-0027, 31 January 1974

¹⁴ PACAF SO GB-0187, 15 July 1974

¹⁵ DAF SO GB-552/1970

¹⁶ DAF SO GB-352, 14 June 1971

¹⁷ DAF SO GB-046, 20 January 1977

¹⁸ DAF SO GB-703, 9 November 1971

¹⁹ DAF SO GB-553, 31 July 1973

²⁰ DAF SO GB-600, 17 July 1975

²¹ DAF SO GB-719, 30 November 1979

²² DAF SO GB-117, 22 February 1983

²³ DAF SO GB-275/1987

Decorations. (Continued)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (Continued)

1 May 1987-30 April 1989²⁴
1 May 1990-30 April 1991²⁵
1 July 1994-30 June 1996²⁶
1 July 1996-30 June 1998²⁷
1 July 1998-30 June 2000²⁸
1 July 2001-30 June 2003²⁹
[1 July] 2003-30 June 2005³⁰
1 July 2005-30 June 2006³¹
1 July 2006-30 June 2007³²
1 July 2007-30 June 2008³³
1 July 2008-30 June 2009³⁴
1 July 2009-30 June 2010³⁵
1 July 2010-30 June 2011³⁶
1 July 2011-30 June 2012³⁷
1 July 2012-30 June 2013³⁸
1 July 2013-30 June 2014³⁹
1 July 2014-30 June 2015⁴⁰
1 July 2015-30 June 2016⁴¹
1 July 2016-30 June 2017⁴²
1 July 2017-30 June 2018⁴³
1 July 2018-30 June 2019⁴⁴

²⁴ TAC SO GA-053, 29 August 1989
²⁵ TAC SO GA-069, 26 September 1991
²⁶ AETC SO GA-18, 15 November 1996
²⁷ AETC SO GA-12, 9 November 1998
²⁸ AETC SO GA-9, 8 December 2000
²⁹ AETC SO GA-55, 29 April 2004
³⁰ AETC SO GA-0052, 22 June 2006
³¹ AETC SO GA-045, 8 May 2007
³² AETC SO G-054, 28 February 2008
³³ AETC SO G-071, 3 April 2009
³⁴ AETC SO G-025, 11 March 2010
³⁵ AETC SO G-086, 9 May 2011
³⁶ AETC SO G-171, 17 April 2012
³⁷ AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013
³⁸ AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014
³⁹ AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015
⁴⁰ AETC SO G-006, 14 October 2016
⁴¹ AETC SO G-022, 22 March 2017
⁴² AETC SO G-015, 19 Dec 2017
⁴³ AETC SO G-057, 20 May 2019
⁴⁴ AETC SO G-013, 18 Dec 2019

Special Honors.

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm: 8 April 1967-28 January 1973.

Assignments. 56th Airdrome Group 27 July 1947-1 August 1948. 56th Air Base Group, 1 August 1948-6 February 1952. 56th Combat Support 8 April 1967⁴⁵-28 February 1975. 56th Combat Support (later, 56th Support) Group 30 June 1975-4 January 1994⁴⁶; 56th Support (later, 56th Mission Support) Group 1 April 1994-⁴⁷

Stations. Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan, 15 August 1947-6 February 1952. Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, 8 April 1967⁴⁸-28 February 1975. MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, 30 June 1975-4 January 1994.⁴⁹ Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 1 April 1994-⁵⁰

Aircraft. None.

Emblem. Approved on 11 March 2003

Blazon. On a disc per fess Azure and Vert, in base a garland of wheat crescent the stems in saltire Or, below a bull regardant Gules, in sinister chief a mullet counterchanged of the third and fourth, all within a narrow border Yellow.

Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed " CRADLE TO GRAVE " in Yellow letters.

Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "56TH FORCE SUPPORT SQ" in Yellow letters.

Motto. CRADLE TO GRAVE.

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 garland of wheat symbolizes the unit's largest focus, food service. The bull signifies strength and readiness. The star stands for the five core areas of the mission, food services, fitness, lodging, readiness and mortuary operations

⁴⁵ PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

⁴⁶ TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975; ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

⁴⁷ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994; AETC SO G-02-20, 23 June 2002

⁴⁸ PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

⁴⁹ TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975; ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

⁵⁰ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

Commanders.

Squadron "D", 56th Airdrome Group [15 August 1947-1 August 1948]

Unknown 15 August 1947-1 August 1948.

56th Food Service Squadron, Fighter, Jet [1 August 1948-20 January 1950]

Unknown 1 August 1948
Capt Edward C. Unger bef 30 November 1948
Unknown Unknown-20 January 1950.

56th Food Service Squadron [20 January 1950-6 February 1952]

Unknown 20 January 1950-6 February 1952.

56th Services Squadron [8 April 1967-28 February 1975;

30 June 1975-1 September 1992]

Maj Donald D. Trimble 8 April 1967
Capt Richard J. Tessier bef 30 September 1967
Capt James P. Davison bef 31 December 1967
Unknown Unknown
Capt James F. Wise bef 31 March 1969
Capt Charles D. McKenzie bef 31 December 1969
Maj Albert N. Turner bef 30 September 1970
Maj Byron L. Carroll bef 31 December 1970
Lt Col Joseph J. O'Hara bef 31 March 1971
Capt Allen B. Alexander, Jr. bef 30 September 1971
Capt Phillip T. Shealy bef 31 December 1972
Capt Rodney P. Harrison 28 September 1973
Capt W. R. Guevara 5 March 1974
Maj Lewis A. Elam bef 31 March 1974
Capt Thomas S. Summers 11 June 1974
Maj Norwood. J. Meche 6 September 1974
Capt Thomas S. Summers bef 31 December 1974-
28 February 1975

Lt Col D. W. Ottoway 30 June 1975
Maj Norwood. J. Meche 15 August 1975⁵¹
Lt Col David B. Bates 19 July 1977
Capt Donald N. Jones 1 March 1979
Lt Col David B. Bates 6 July 1979
Capt Donald B. Jones 14 May 1980
Maj (later, Lt Col) Phillip T. Shealy 1 July 1980
Maj Harold H. Holden 18 May 1984⁵²
1st Lt Alvin J. Heggem 5 June 1986

⁵¹ 56 CSG SO G-5, 7 October 1975

⁵² 56 CSG G-7, 18 May 1984

Commanders. (Continued)

Lt Col Thomas B. Fletcher	9 July 1986 ⁵³
Maj Sharon Hines-Marquis	27 February 1990 ⁵⁴
Maj John C. McClelland	5 September 1991-1 September 1992

56th Morale, Welfare, Recreation and Services Squadron [1 September 1992-4 January 1994.

Maj John C. McClelland	1 September 1992
Lt Col Warren J. Brookhart	June 1993-4 January 1994.

56th Services Squadron [1 April 1994-26 February 2009]

Lt Col Jack L. Baily, Jr.	1 April 1994 ⁵⁵
Maj Lynne D. Bitler	5 May 1994 ⁵⁶
Lt Col Claude C. Braley	10 June 1994 ⁵⁷
Lt Col Ron L. Winkel	7 June 1996 ⁵⁸
Maj Anne F. Fitch	24 June 1999 ⁵⁹
Lt Col Patricia M. Carpenter	11 June 2001 ⁶⁰
Lt Col Alan C. Gnann	15 July 2003 ⁶¹
Lt Col Dane D. Matthew	23 June 2005 ⁶²
Maj William M.G. Manley	23 July 2007 ⁶³ -26 February 2009

56th Forces Support Squadron [26 February 2009-.]

Maj William M.G. Manley	26 February 2009
Maj Carol Gordon	27 February 2009 ⁶⁴
Maj Rodney J. Nichols	11 June 2009 ⁶⁵
Maj (later, Lt Col) Timothy A. Farr	6 July 2011 ⁶⁶
Lt Col Todd P. Ladd	10 June 2013 ⁶⁷ .

⁵³ 56 CSG SO G-47, 8 July 1986

⁵⁴ 56 MSS SO G-003, 23 February 1990

⁵⁵ 58 MSS SO SO-GS-001, 6 October 1992

⁵⁶ 56 SVS SO SO-GS-003, 18 May 1994

⁵⁷ 56 SVS SO SO-GS-005, 13 June 1994

⁵⁸ 56 SG, SO SO-GS-003, 5 June 1996

⁵⁹ 56 FW SO GS-99-01, 23 June 1999

⁶⁰ 56 FW SO GS-01-02, 11 June 2001

⁶¹ 56 SVS SO 56 SVS G-2003-1, 8 July 2003

⁶² 56 SVS SO 56 SVS-G-05-01, 8 June 2005

⁶³ 56 MSG SO MSG-07-11, 5 June 2007

⁶⁴ 56 MSG SO G-025, 24 April 2009

⁶⁵ 56 FSS SO G-032, 10 June 2009

⁶⁶ 56 MDG SO G-019, 6 July 2011

⁶⁷ 56 MSG SO GS-18, 10 June 2013

Commanders. (Continued)

Maj (later, Lt Col) Tonya Y. Mack	17 July 2015 ⁶⁸
Maj Maritzel G. Castrellon	29 June 2017 ⁶⁹
Maj Jesse L. Johnson	24 June 2019-Present. ⁷⁰

Narrative.

The 56th Force Support Squadron's lineage makes it one of the oldest units in the wing. On 27 July 1947, it was designated the Squadron "D", 56th Airdrome Group. It was organized on 15 August 1947, at Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan, and assigned to the 56th Airdrome Group. On 1 August 1948, the unit was discontinued.

It was replaced with the 56th Food Service Squadron, Fighter, Jet, which was constituted on 14 June 1948. On 10 October 1948, the Air Force consolidated those two units with a third squadron. On 1 August 1948, the 56th Food Service Squadron, Fighter, Jet, was assigned to the 56th Air Base Group. On 20 January 1950, it was redesignated as the 56th Food Service Squadron. It was inactivated on 6 February 1952.

The third squadron, the 56th Services Squadron was constituted and activated on 16 March 1967, and organized on 8 April 1967 at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. It was assigned to the 56th Combat Support. It inactivated on 28 February 1975. 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, it reactivated at MacDill AFB, Florida, and was assigned to the 56th Combat Support (later, 56th Support) Group. On 4 September 1992, the unit was redesignated as the 56th Morale, Welfare, Recreation and Services Squadron. It inactivated on 4 January 1994.

On 21 March 1994, it was redesignated the 56th Services Squadron. The unit reactivated on 1 April 1994 at Luke AFB, Arizona, and reported to the 56th Support (later, 56th Mission Support) Group. On 26 February 2009, the unit absorbed the personnel, equipment, and facilities of the 56th Mission Support Squadron and was redesignated 56th Force Support Squadron. Today, it provides a full array of mission support products and services to Airmen and their families.

Locally Updated on 20 February 2020

Locally Updated by Rick Griset

⁶⁸ 56 MSG SO GS-14-15, 7 July 2015

⁶⁹ 56 MSG SO G-18-17, 15 June 2017

⁷⁰ 56 MSG SO G-19-033, 20 June 2019