56th Mission Support Group

Lineage.

Established as 56th Airdrome Group on 28 July 1947.
Organized on 15 August 1947.\(^1\)
Discontinued on 1 August 1948.

Consolidated (1 October 1984) with the 56th Air Base Group, which was established on 14 June 1948.
Activated on 1 August 1948.
Inactivated on 6 February 1952.

Activated on 28 December 1960.\(^2\)
Organized on 1 February 1961.\(^3\)
Redesignated 56th Combat Support Group on 1 April 1963.
Discontinued, and inactivated, on 1 January 1964.\(^4\)

Activated on 16 March 1967.
Organized on 8 April 1967.\(^5\)

\(^1\) GO-77, 20 August 1947
\(^2\) AFOMO 536m, 28 December 1960
\(^3\) AFOMO 536m, 28 December 1960
\(^4\) AFOMO 90n, 16 September 1963 and SAC SO G-82, 25 September 1963
\(^5\) PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967


Honors.

Campaign Streamers.

Vietnam

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II [1967-1968]
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III [1968]
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV [1968-1969]
Tet 1969 Counteroffensive [1969]
Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969 [1969]
Sanctuary Counteroffensive [1970]
Southwest Monsoon [1970]
Commando Hunt V [1970-1971]
Commando Hunt VI [1971]
Commando Hunt VII [1971-1972]
Vietnam Cease Fire [1972-1973]

Decorations.

Presidential Unit Citations

Southeast Asia 1 November 1968-1 May 1969
Southeast Asia 1 October 1969-30 April 1970
Southeast Asia 1 April 1972-22 February 1973

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6 TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991
7 ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993
8 AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994
9 AETC SO G-02-20, 23 June 2002
10 PACAF SO G-184, 30 July 1969
11 PACAF SO G-352, 14 June 1971
12 PACAF SO GB-0019, 31 January 1974
13 PACAF SO GB-0022, 31 January 1974
14 PACAF SO GB-0025, 31 January 1974
15 PACAF SO GB-0027, 31 January 1974
16 PACAF SO GB-0187, 15 July 1974
17 DAF SO GB-552/1970
18 DAF SO GB-352, 14 June 1971
Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 June 1970-31 May 1971 with Combat "V" Device\textsuperscript{19}
1 December 1971-29 February 1972 with Combat "V" Device\textsuperscript{20}
23 February 1973-28 February 1974 with Combat "V" Device\textsuperscript{21}
24 January 1975-2 May 1975 with Combat "V" Device\textsuperscript{22}
1 January 1977-1 January 1979\textsuperscript{23}
1 July 1980-31 May 1982\textsuperscript{24}
1 June 1984-31 May 1986\textsuperscript{25}
1 May 1987-30 April 1989\textsuperscript{26}
1 May 1989-30 April 1990\textsuperscript{27}
1 May 1990-30 April 1991\textsuperscript{28}
1 July 1994-30 June 1996\textsuperscript{29}
1 July 1996-30 June 1998\textsuperscript{30}
1 July 1998-30 June 2000\textsuperscript{31}
1 July 2001-30 June 2003\textsuperscript{32}
[1 July] 2003-30 June 2005\textsuperscript{33}
1 July 2005-30 June 2006\textsuperscript{34}
1 July 2006-30 June 2007\textsuperscript{35}
1 July 2007-30 June 2008\textsuperscript{36}
1 July 2008-30 June 2009\textsuperscript{37}
1 July 2009-30 June 2010\textsuperscript{38}

\textsuperscript{19} DAF SO GB-703, 9 November 1971
\textsuperscript{20} DAF SO GB-553, 31 July 1973
\textsuperscript{21} DAF SO GB-600, 17 July 1975
\textsuperscript{22} USAF SO GB-623, 10 August 1976
\textsuperscript{23} DAF SO GB-719, 30 November 1979
\textsuperscript{24} DAF SO GB-117, 22 February 1983
\textsuperscript{25} DAF SO GB-275/1987
\textsuperscript{26} TAC SO GA-053, 29 August 1989
\textsuperscript{27} TAC SO GA-048, 16 August 1990
\textsuperscript{28} TAC SO GA-069, 26 September 1991
\textsuperscript{29} AETC SO GA-18, 15 November1996
\textsuperscript{30} AETC SO GA-12, 9 November 1998
\textsuperscript{31} AETC SO GA-9, 8 December 2000
\textsuperscript{32} AETC SO GA-55, 29 April 2004
\textsuperscript{33} AETC SO GA-0052, 22 June 2006
\textsuperscript{34} AETC SO GA-045, 8 May 2007
\textsuperscript{35} AETC SO G-054, 28 February 2008
\textsuperscript{36} AETC SO G-071, 3 April 2009
\textsuperscript{37} AETC SO G-025, 11 March 2010
\textsuperscript{38} AETC SO G-086, 9 May 2011
Decorations. (Continued)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (Continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Award Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 July 2010-30 June 2011</td>
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<td>1 July 2011-30 June 2012</td>
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<td>1 July 2012-30 June 2013</td>
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<td>1 July 2013-30 June 2014</td>
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<td>1 July 2014-30 June 2015</td>
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<td>1 July 2015-30 June 2016</td>
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<td>1 July 2016-30 June 2017</td>
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<td>1 July 2017-30 June 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 July 2018-30 June 2019</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Special Honors.
Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, 8 April 1967-28 January 1973

PAST AND PRESENT UNITS ASSIGNED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currently Assigned Units</th>
<th>Time Frame Assigned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56th Civil Engineer Squadron</td>
<td>1 April 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56th Communications Squadron</td>
<td>1 April 1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>56th Contracting Squadron</td>
<td>1 April 1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>56th Logistics Readiness Squadron</td>
<td>1 August 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56th Services Squadron</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>later, Force Support Squadron</td>
<td>1 April 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56th Security Police Squadron</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>later, 56th Security Forces Squadron</td>
<td>1 April 1994</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

39 AETC SO G-171, 17 April 2012
40 AETC SO G-036, 1 March 2013
41 AETC SO G-017, 1 February 2014
42 AETC SO G-029, 8 January 2015
43 AETC SO G-006, 14 October 2016
44 AETC SO G-022, 22 March 2017
45 AETC SO G-015, 19 Dec 2017
46 AETC SO G-057, 20 May 2019
47 AETC SO G-013, 18 Dec 2019
49 AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994
50 AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994
51 AETC SO G-02-20, 23 June 2002
52 AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994; AETC SO G-09-9, 26 February 2009
53 AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previously Assigned Units</th>
<th>Time Frame Assigned</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Squadrons</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squadron &quot;A,&quot; 56th Airdrome Group</td>
<td>15 August 1947-1 August 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56th Communications Squadron</td>
<td>1 August 1948-6 February 1952;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 October 1991-4 January 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squadron &quot;B,&quot; 56th Airdrome Group</td>
<td>15 August 1947-1 August 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56th Air Police Squadron, Fighter, Jet</td>
<td>1 August 1948-6 February 1952;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>later, 56th Air Police Squadron</td>
<td>15 February 1963-1 January 1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>later, 56th Security Police Squadron</td>
<td>8 April 1967-4 January 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squadron &quot;C,&quot; 56th Airdrome Group</td>
<td>15 August 1947-1 August 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56th Installations Squadron, Fighter, Jet</td>
<td>1 August 1948-6 February 1952;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>later, 56th Installations Squadron,</td>
<td>1 February 1961-1 January 1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>later, 56th Civil Engineering Squadron</td>
<td>8 April 1967-4 January 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squadron &quot;D,&quot; 56th Airdrome Group</td>
<td>15 August 1947-1 August 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56th Food Service Squadron, Fighter, Jet</td>
<td>1 August 1948-6 February 1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>later 56th Food Service Squadron</td>
<td>1 August 1948-6 February 1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56th Services Squadron</td>
<td>8 April 1967-28 February 1975;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>later, 56th Morale, Welfare, Recreation and Services Squadron</td>
<td>30 June 1975-4 January 1994</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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54 TAC SO GB-16, 1 November 1991  
55 ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993  
56 AFOMO 90n, 16 September 1963 and SAC SO G-82, 25 September 1963  
57 PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967; ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993  
58 ADC GO #192, 28 December 1960  
59 AFOMO 90n, 16 September 1963 and SAC SO G-82, 25 September 1963  
60 PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967  
61 ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993  
62 PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967  
63 TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975  
64 ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previously Assigned Units</th>
<th>Time Frame Assigned</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Squadrons (Continued)</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squadron &quot;E,&quot; 56th Airdrome Group</td>
<td>15 August 1947-1 August 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56th Motor Vehicle Squadron, Fighter, Jet later, 56th Motor Vehicle Squadron)</td>
<td>1 August 1948-6 February 1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56th Transportation Squadron later, 56th Transportation Squadron</td>
<td>1 February 1961⁶⁵-1 April 1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56th Supply Squadron</td>
<td>8 April 1967⁶⁶-30 June 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squadron &quot;F,&quot; 56th Airdrome Group</td>
<td>March 1948-Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Finance Disbursing Unit, Fighter, Jet</td>
<td>1 August 1948-1 November 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56th Air Base Squadron</td>
<td>1 February 1961⁶⁸-1 January 1964⁶⁹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56th Headquarters Squadron</td>
<td>1 February 1961⁷³-Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56th Morale, Welfare and Recreation Squadron</td>
<td>1 October 1991⁷⁴-4 September 1992⁷⁵</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56th Supply Squadron</td>
<td>1 February 1961⁷⁶-1 April 1963⁷⁷;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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⁶⁵ AFOMO 536m, 28 December 1960  
⁶⁶ PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967  
⁶⁷ TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975  
⁶⁸ ADC GO #192, 28 December 1960  
⁶⁹ AFOMO 90n, 16 September 1963 and SAC SO G-82, 25 September 1963  
⁷⁰ ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993  
⁷¹ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994; AETC SO G-09-9, 26 February 2009  
⁷² TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975; ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993  
⁷³ AFOMO 536m, 28 December 1960  
⁷⁴ TAC SO GB-001, 1 October 1991  
⁷⁵ ACC SO GB-124, 21 August 1992  
⁷⁶ AFOMO 536m, 28 December 1960  
⁷⁷ SAC SO G-82, 25 September 1963
Previously Assigned Units Time Frame Assigned

**Squadrons (Continued)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56th Support Squadron</td>
<td>1 April 1994-1 October 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32d Crash-Rescue Boat Flight</td>
<td>attached 14 July 1951-Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assignments.** 56th Fighter Wing on 15 August 1947-1 August 1948. 56th Fighter (later, 56th Fighter-Interceptor) Wing on 1 August 1948-6 February 1952. 56th Fighter Wing (Air Defense), 1 February 1961-1 January 1964. 56th Air Commando (later, 56th Special Operations, 56th Tactical Fighter, 56th Tactical Training, 56th Fighter) Wing, 8 April 1967-4 January 1994. 56th Fighter Wing 1 April 1994.


**Aircraft.** None.

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79 56 FIW GO 22, 14 July 1951
80 AFOMO 536m, 28 December 1960
81 AFOMO 90n, 16 September 1963 and SAC SO G-82, 25 September 1963
82 TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975
83 ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993
84 AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994
85 AFOMO 536m, 28 December 1960
86 AFOMO 90n, 16 September 1963 and SAC SO G-82, 25 September 1963
87 TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975
88 TAC SO GA-12, 10 June 1975
89 ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993
90 AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

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 MISSION SUPPORT 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.

56th Airdrome Group [15 August 1947-1 August 1948]
Maj James R. Woods c. 15 August 1947
Lt Col Irwin H. Dregne bef 30 September 1947 [Ace]
Lt Col David T. McKnight bef 30 June 1948-1 August 1948

56th Air Base Group [1 August 1948-6 February 1952; 1 February 1961-1 April 1963]
Lt Col David T. McKnight 1 August 1948
Lt Col Burton E. McKenzie bef 30 June 1949
Lt Col Robert N. Lacy bef 31 December 1949
Maj Roy L. Bowlin bef 1 January 1950
Lt Col William W. Ingehut bef 1 September 1950
Lt Col George J. Ola 21 December 1950
Col Graeme S. Bond bef 31 March 1951
Col Blake C. Miller 27 August 1951-Unknown

Unknown 1 February 1961
Col Daniel P. McLean bef 28 March 1963

Col Daniel P. McLean 1 April 1963 - Unknown

Col Frank A. Sheehan 8 April 1967
Lt Col Lewis C. Hughes 20 May 1967
Col Benjamin F. De Haan 2 July 1967
Col Thomas R. Owens bef 18 December 1968
Col Thomas B. Carter 13 June 1969
Col Thomas L. Carroll 1 June 1970
Col James D. Pearson bef 30 September 1971
Lt Col William E. Flanigin bef 18 July 1972
Col Edward H. Aune 18 July 1972
Col John R. Boyd bef 31 December 1972
Col John L. Webb 1 April 1973
Col Robert G. Rogers 1 April 1974
Col Howard T. Nuckels 15 March 1975
Col David G. Harston bef 25 August 1975
Col William E. Adams 25 August 1975-Unknown
Unknown Unknown
Col George E. Wehling 1 March 1979
Col Milton A. Steadman 27 February 1981
Col Edward A. Zompa 11 May 1984
Col David L. Wagner 14 Nov 1984
Col Jack P. Cross 17 June 1987
Col Robert J. Smith 18 April 1988
Col Jack P. Cross bef 7 July 1988
Col Robert J. Smith 7 July 1988
Col George G. Giddens 25 July 1989

91 56 CSG SO G-05, 8 April 1967
92 56 CSG SO G-07, 20 May 1967
93 56 CSG SO G-10, 2 July 1967
94 9 AF SO G-13, 9 May 1984
95 56 CSG SO G-48, 19 April 1988
96 56 CSG SO G-63, 8 July 1988
97 56 MSS SO G-034, 24 July 1989
Commanders. (Continued)


Col Stig Egede Nissen                  1 November 1991
Col Charles T. Ohlinger, III           August 1992
Col Larry A. Timmerman                18 August 1993-4 January 1994
Col Samuel E Young, Jr.                1 April 199498
Col Elizabeth A. Harrell              17 October 199499 (Major General)
Vacant                                 13 June 1995
Col Rodney E. Gibson                   9 August 1995100
Lt Col (later, Col) Norman L. Watson   7 August 1996101
Lt Col (later, Col) Michael Hazen      15 June 1998102

56th Mission Support Group [27 September 2002-]

Col Michael J. Maloney                 27 September 2002104
Col Keith E. Smith                     7 June 2004105
Col Ronald J. Mozzillo                 10 July 2006106
Col Andre K. Curry                     2 May 2008107
Col Philippe R. Darcy                  18 June 2010108
Col Nathan C. Mooney                   9 July 2012109
Col James K. Kossler                   24 July 2014110
Col Robert A. Sylvester                8 August 2016111
Col Ryan E. Richardson                 29 July 2019-Present112

98 [832 MSS SO SO-G-8, 27 December 1990 and 58 MSS SO SO-G-1, 1 October 1991]
99 56 FW SO SO-GR-001, 21 October 1994
100 56 FW SO SO-GR-004, 24 July 1995
101 56 FW SO SO-GR-001, 31 July 1996
102 56 FS SO SO-GR-001, 28 May 1998
103 56 FW SO SO-GR-003, 17 May 2000
104 56 MSG SO MSG G-2, 24 September 2002
105 56 MSS SO 56 MSS G-2 2004, 3 June 2004
106 56 MSG SO MSG-06-05, 30 June 2006
107 56 MSS SO G-015, 2 May 2008
108 56 MSG SO G-011, 9 June 2010
109 56 FW SO G-021, 9 July 2012
110 56 MSG GS-29-14, 28 July 2014
111 56 MSG G-20-16, 6 July 2016
112 56 MSG G-19-041, 14 August 2019
Narrative.
Organized as the 56th Airdrome Group at Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan, on 15 August 1947, the same day as the 56th Fighter Wing. The 56th Mission Support Group is one of the oldest organizations in the wing. The group supported the wing mission in Strategic Air Command’s exercises, operations, and training programs. In July 1948, the group provided support to the first west-to-east jet fighter transatlantic crossing along the northern air in reaction to the Soviet Blockade of Berlin, Germany. On 1 August 1948, the group was discontinued and replaced by the 56th Air Base Group. The two groups were later consolidated. Starting in December 1948, the group supported the wing’s mission of air defense for a large portion of the northeastern United States. On 6 February 1952, the 56th Air Base Group inactivated, along with the 56th Fighter Wing.

Reactivated with the wing at K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base, Michigan, on 1 February 1961, the group again supported the air defense mission in the Michigan area, and the dispersal of the 62d Fighter Squadron during the Cuban Missile Crisis. On 1 April 1963, the group was redesignated as the 56th Combat Support Group. On 1 January 1964, the group was discontinued and inactivated.

On 8 April 1967, the group reactivated with the wing at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. In the first year, the wing/base doubled in size. The group supported the wing’s mission of employing a wide variety of aircraft to meet specialized missions. Those missions included interdiction, psychological warfare, close air support, search and rescue, forward air control, training Thai and Laotian air forces, and helicopter escort for clandestine insertion and extraction of personnel in Laos and North Vietnam. The group supported the wing’s close air support missions during the sieges of Khe Sanh, February-April 1968, and Lima Site 85, January-March 1968. The group support wing elements that participated in the Son Tay Prison raid on 21 November 1970 and continued combat in Vietnam until mid-January 1973, in Laos until 22 February 1973, and in Cambodia until 15 August 1973. The group assisted in the evacuations of Phnom Penh on 11 April 1975 and Saigon, 29-30 April 1975. The group supported forward air control and helicopter insertion/extraction mission during the SS Mayaguez rescue operation on 15 May 1975. Due to its efforts in Thailand, the group was awarded three Presidential Unit Citations, 12 campaign streamers, 4 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device, and a Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.

On 30 June 1975, the group moved with the wing to MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. There the group operated the base and the nearby Avon Park Range. It supported the wing’s mission to train pilots and weapon system officers learn to fly the F-4D/E and later pilots to fly F-16s. The group provided logistic support to US Central Command beginning in 1983 and to US Special Operations Command after 1986. Between August 1990 and March 1991, the group provided support personnel and equipment to units in Southwest Asia. On 1 November 1991, the group was redesignated as the 56th Support Group. On 4 January 1994, along with all of the other groups in the wing, the 56th Support Group inactivated.

On 1 April 1994, the group reactivated at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. On 27 September 2002, the group was redesignated as the 56th Mission Support Group. While at Luke Air Force Base,
the group continued to support the wing’s mission to train F-16 pilots and deploy mission ready Airmen. Most recently the group supported the activation of the 56th Fighter Wing’s 54th Fighter Group at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, on 1 March 2014, and the start of training F-35 pilots at Luke Air Force Base. Since 1970, the group earned 29 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, four of which were with Combat "V" Device.

Locally Updated on 20 February 2020

Locally Updated by Rick Griset