

## 56<sup>th</sup> TRAINING SQUADRON



### MISSION

The 56th Training Squadron provides academic and ground based instruction to support training the world's finest F-16 pilots. The 56th TRS trains almost one-half of all the Air Force's new fighter pilots each year. It conducts F-16 academic and device training in accordance with major command formal syllabi including initial instruction, transition courses, senior officer courses, Thunderbird/aggressor pilot instruction, forward air control, night systems and Block 50 specialized conversion courses. The 56th TRS also provides academic, simulator and live mission training for more than 75 upgrading weapons directors annually. All 56th TRS training is conducted across six facilities on Luke and the Papago Park military reservation in central Phoenix. This squadron provides Air Force acceptance and quality control of courseware and manages all international military student affairs and aircrew training devices for the 56th FW.

### LINEAGE

56<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) constituted, 20 Nov 1940  
Activated, 15 Jan 1941  
Redesignated 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 15 May 1942  
Disbanded, 1 May 1944  
Reconstituted and redesignated 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, 14 Nov 1952  
Activated, 27 Nov 1952  
Discontinued, 1 Mar 1960  
Redesignated 56<sup>th</sup> Tactical Training Squadron, 25 Sep 1979  
Activated, 1 Oct 1979  
Redesignated 56<sup>th</sup> Training Squadron, 1 Nov 1991  
Inactivated, 20 Jul 1993  
Activated, 1 Apr 1994

## **STATIONS**

Hamilton Field, CA, 15 Jan 1941

Snohomish County Aprt (later, Paine Field, 22 Jun 1941; Harding Field, LA, 31 Jan 1942

(detachment operated from Santa Ana, CA, 28 May-12 Jun 1942; Nome, AK, 20 Jun-20 Oct 1942; Anchorage, AK, 23 Oct-21 Dec 1942)

Bartow AAFld, FL, 11 May 1943-1 May 1944

Selfridge AFB, MI, 27 Nov 1952

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, 18 Aug 1955-1 Mar 1960

MacDill AFB, FL, 1 Oct 1979-20 Jul 1993

Luke AFB, AZ, 1 Apr 1994

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

54<sup>th</sup> Pursuit (later, Fighter) Group, 15 Jan 1941-1 May 1944

4708<sup>th</sup> Defense Wing, 27 Nov 1952

575<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Group, 16 Feb 1953

4706<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Wing, 18 Aug 1955

58<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 1 Mar 1956

30<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 1 Sep 1958

Detroit Air Defense Sector

1 Apr 1959-1 Mar 1960

56<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter (later, Tactical Training; Fighter) Wing, 1 Oct 1979

56<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 1 Nov 1991-20 Jul 1993

56<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 1 Apr 1994

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-40, 1941

P-39, 1941-1943

P-51, 1943-1944

P-51A

P-51B

F-51, 1952-1953

F-86, 1953-1958

F-86D

F-86F

F-104, 1958-1960

P-40M

P-39D

P-39F

P-40L

P-51C

P-39D

P-40C

P-40G

P-40E

P-40A

**F-86L**

### **COMMANDERS**

2Lt Patrick R. Arnold, 15 Jan 1941  
2Lt Samuel H. Marret, 24 Jan 1941  
Cpt Robert B. Richard, 30 Apr 1941  
Maj Charles M. McCorkle, 24 Mar 1942-15 May 1942  
Maj Charles M. McCorkle, 15 May 1942  
1Lt James K. Dowling, 12 Jun 1942  
Cpt William P. Litton, 1 Feb 1943  
Maj William H. Merriam, 16 Feb 1943  
Maj James G. Curl, 4 Oct 1943-Unknown  
Unknown, 26 Jan 1944-1 May 1944  
Maj Frank O. Lux (acting), 27 Nov 1952  
LTC Richard D. Creighton, 1 Jan 1953  
Maj Frank O. Lux, 30 Jun 1954  
Unknown, 1 Jul 1954-30 Mar 1958  
LTC Alston L. Brown, 31 Mar 1958  
Maj Sylvester H. Hendricks (acting), 11 Dec 1958  
LTC Charles E. Rigney, 30 Jun 1959  
Unknown, 1 Jul 1959-1 May 1960  
LTC David W. Spring, 1 Oct 1979  
LTC Paul H. Burbage III, 15 Mar 1980  
Maj John D. Holmquist 19 May 1980  
LTC Charles E. Cotton, 30 Jun 1980  
LTC Bruce V. Huneke, 2 Aug 1982  
LTC James C. Kobriger, 24 Jan 1983  
LTC David H. Brooks, 1 Apr 1983  
LTC Ralph T. Hood, 4 Oct 1984  
LTC Randall H. Wiseman, 19 Dec 1986  
LTC Jon E. Wilson, 20 Dec 1988  
LTC Rodney L. Bates, 7 Sep 1990  
LTC William Stringer, 17 Jan 1992  
LTC Stanley Sutterfield, Aug 1992  
LTC Ronald H. Heyden, 1 Apr 1994  
LTC David M. Burnett, 6 May 1994  
LTC John C. Vignetti, 19 Jun 1995  
LTC John R. Swarsbrook, 15 Jul 1997  
LTC William Gonzalez, Jr., 9 Jul 1999  
LTC Randy A. O'Connor, 19 Dec 2000  
LTC Jack D. Patterson, Jr., 18 Jan 2002  
LTC Robert P. Egan, 28 Mar 2003

LTC Richard A. Forster, 7 Jan 2005  
LTC Brian D. Neumann, 16 Jun 2006  
LTC Doyle C. Turner, 16 May 2008  
LTC Charles J. DeLapp, 14 May 2010  
LTC Matthew Liljenstolpe, 13 Jul 2012

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War II American Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Air Combat, Asiatic-Pacific

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation

Alaska, [Jun]-4 Nov 1942

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

1 Jul 1980-30 Jun 1982

1 Jun 1984-31 May 1986

1 May 1987-30 Apr 1989

1 May 1989-30 Apr 1990

1 May 1990-30 Apr 1991

1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1996

1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998

1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000

1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2003

[Jul] 2003-30 Jun 2005

1 Jul 2005-30 Jun 2006

1 Jul 2006-30 Jun 2007

1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2008

1 Jul 2008-30 Jun 2009

1 Jul 2009-30 Jun 2010

1 Jul 2010-30 Jun 2011

## EMBLEM



A caricatured "policeman" bird, yellow feet and beak, wearing a red policeman's coat with tails, trimmed with gold belt, star, collar and sleeve braid, and buttons, and an ultramarine blue policeman's "bobby" hat with yellow crescent moon thereon, strutting out of white disc formed by border of yellow stars in orle, arranged five and six respectively, and swinging a red "billy" outlined black by cord held between thumb and right forefinger. (Approved, 1 Mar 1944)



On a disc Gules, in horizontal flight two flight symbols fesswise in bend Sable, each emitting a contrail to sinister chief Or, issuant from base a mountainous terrain earth colored Proper surmounting a bezant, all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "56TH TRAINING SQ" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "FIGHTER ACADEMICS" in Yellow letters. **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 escarpment refers to the location of the unit. The rising sun signifies the unit's role in training student pilots to qualified status in major weapons systems. The deltas show the high level of training provided by the unit. (Approved, 20 Jul 1984)

**MOTTO**

**NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Served as part of the air defense force for the West Coast, May-Jun 1942; patrols from Nome and Anchorage, Alaska, 20 Jun-21 Dec 1942. Replacement training for P-51 pilots, Apr 1943-Apr 1944.

Air defense alert, 1952-1960

F-16 academic training, 1979-1993.

Academic training for F-15 aircrews, 1994-1995 and F-16 aircrews, 1994.

The squadron's specific mission was to provide air defense for the heavily populated and industrial areas of the greater Miami Valley, which included Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee. From mid-summer of 1958, the squadron flew F-104 Starfighter airplanes. On 1 Mar 1960, the 56th FIS, with a strength of 300 assigned 1961 was known as the Wright Air Development Division individuals and 25 F-104s, was inactivated at Wright-Patterson, one of four such squadrons inactivated by the Air Defense Command.

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Re-constituted and activated at Selfridge AFB, Michigan in Nov 1952, the 56th (now) Fighter Interceptor Squadron was assigned to the 4708th Air Defense Wing, and equipped with North American F-86F Sabres. In Feb 1953, the 56th FIS began conversion to F-86D interceptors, and was assigned to the 575th Air Defense Group.

On 18 Aug 1955, under Project ARROW, the 56th FIS designation was transferred from Selfridge AFB to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, initially under operational control of the 4706th Air Defense Wing, then the 58th Air Division (Air Defense) on 1 Mar 1956, where the squadron was the primary air defense unit for southwestern Ohio and the research facilities at Wright-Patterson. In the Spring of 1957, the 56th FIS began re-equipping with the North American F-86L Sabre, an improved version of the F-86D which incorporated the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment, or SAGE.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *58<sup>th</sup> Air Division (Defense) Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH. 1957*