

56 FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON



MISSION

The squadron provides, develops, and maintains programs to ensure personal and professional development and fulfills individual and family needs of the Luke community. It provides personnel accountability systems and programs to support local mission and higher headquarters' taskings. The unit provides exceptional combat readiness through quality of life and mission enhancing programs.

LINEAGE

Squadron "D", 56 Airdrome Group designated, 27 Jul 1947

Organized, 15 Aug 1947

Discontinued, 1 Aug 1948

56 Food Service Squadron, Fighter, Jet constituted, 14 Jun 1948.

Activated, 1 Aug 1948

Redesignated 56 Food Service Squadron, 20 Jan 1950

Inactivated, 6 Feb 1952

56 Services Squadron constituted and activated, 16 Mar 1967

Organized, 8 Apr 1967

Inactivated, 28 Feb 1975

Activated, 30 Jun 1975

Squadron "D", 56 Airdrome Group, 56 Food Service Squadron and 56 Services Squadron consolidated and designated 56 Services Squadron

Redesignated 56 Morale, Welfare, Recreation and Services Squadron, 4 Sep 1992

Inactivated, 4 Jan 1994
Redesignated 56 Services Squadron, 21 Mar 1994
Activated, 1 Apr 1994
Redesignated 56 Force Support Squadron, 26 Feb 2009

STATIONS

Selfridge Field (later, AFB), MI, 15 Aug 1947-6 Feb 1952
Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, 8 Apr 1967-28 Feb 1975
MacDill AFB, FL, 30 Jun 1975-4 Jan 1994
Luke AFB, AZ, 1 Apr 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

56 Airdrome Group 27 Jul 1947-1 Aug 1948
56 Air Base Group, 1 Aug 1948-6 Feb 1952
56 Combat Support 8 Apr 1967-28 Feb 1975
56 Combat Support (later, 56 Support) Group 30 Jun 1975-4 Jan 1994
56 Support (later, 56 Mission Support) Group 1 Apr 1994

COMMANDERS

Unknown, 1 Aug 1948
Capt Edward C. Unger, 30 Nov 1948
Unknown, 20 Jan 1950-6 Feb 1952
Maj Donald D. Trimble, 8 Apr 1967
Capt Richard J. Tessier, 30 Sep 1967
Capt James P. Davison, 31 Dec 1967
Capt James F. Wise, 31 Mar 1969
Capt Charles D. McKenzie, 31 Dec 1969
Maj Albert N. Turner, 30 Sep 1970
Maj Byron L. Carroll, 31 Dec 1970
Lt Col Joseph J. O'hara, 31 Mar 1971
Capt Allen B. Alexander, Jr., 30 Sep 1971
Capt Phillip T. Shealy, 31 Dec 1972
Capt Rodney P. Harrison, 28 Sep 1973
Capt W. R. Guevara, 5 Mar 1974
Maj Lewis A. Elam, 31 Mar 1974
Capt Thomas S. Summers, 11 Jun 1974
Maj Norwood. J. Meche, 6 Sep 1974
Capt Thomas S. Summers, 31 Dec 1974-28 Feb 1975
Lt Col D. W. Ottoway, 30 Jun 1975
Maj Norwood. J. Meche, 15 Aug 1975
Lt Col David B. Bates, 19 Jul 1977
Capt Donald N. Jones, 1 Mar 1979
Lt Col David B. Bates, 6 Jul 1979
Capt Donald B. Jones, 14 May 1980

Lt Col Phillip T. Shealy, 1 Jul 1980
Maj Harold H. Holden, 18 May 1984
1st Lt Alvin J. Heggem, 5 Jun 1986
Lt Col Thomas B. Fletcher, 9 Jul 1986
Maj Sharon Hines-Marquis, 27 Feb 1990
Maj John C. McClelland, 5 Sep 1991
Lt Col Warren J. Brookhart, Jun 1993-4 Jan 1994
Lt Col Jack L. Baily, Jr., 1 Apr 1994
Maj Lynne D. Bitler, 5 May 1994
Lt Col Claude C. Braley, 10 Jun 1994
Lt Col Ron L. Winkel, 7 Jun 1996
Maj Anne F. Fitch, 24 Jun 1999
Lt Col Patricia M. Carpenter, 11 Jun 2001
Lt Col Alan C. Gnann, 15 Jul 2003
Lt Col Dane D. Matthew, 23 Jun 2005
Maj William M.G. Manley, 23 Jul 2007
Maj Carol Gordon, 27 Feb 2009
Maj Rodney J. Nichols, 11 Jun 2009
Lt Col Timothy A. Farr, 6 Jul 2011
Lt Col Todd P. Ladd, 10 Jun 2013

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV

Tet 1969 Counteroffensive

Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969

Vietnam Winter/Spring 1970

Sanctuary Counteroffensive

Southwest Monsoon

Commando Hunt V

Commando Hunt VI

Commando Hunt VII

Vietnam Cease Fire

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citations

1968-1 May 1969

1969-30 Apr 1970
1 Apr 1972-22 Feb 1973

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Combat "V" Device
1 Jun 1970-31 May 1971
1 Dec 1971-29 Feb 1972
23 Feb 1973-28 Feb 1974

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Jan 1977-1 Jan 1979
1 Jul 1980-31 May 1982
1 Jun 1984-31 May 1986
1 May 1987-30 Apr 1989
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
1 Jun [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
1 Jul 2011-30 Jun 2012
1 Jul 2012-30 Jun 2013

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
8 Apr 1967-28 Jan 1973

EMBLEM



56 Services Squadron emblem



56 Services Squadron emblem: 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 "SERVICE TO THE BEST" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "56 SERVICES SQUADRON" 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 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 (Approved, 11 Mar 2003)

MOTTO

SERVICE TO THE BEST

OPERATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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