

56th Civil Engineer Squadron

Lineage.

Designated Squadron "C," 56th Airdrome Group
on 28 July 1947.

Organized on 15 August 1947.

Discontinued on 1 August 1948.

Consolidated (3 October 1984) with
56th Installations Squadron, Fighter, Jet,
which was constituted on 14 June 1948.

Activated on 1 August 1948.

Redesignated 56th Installations Squadron on
20 January 1950.

Inactivated 6 February 1952.

Redesignated 56th Civil Engineering Squadron, and activated, on 28 December 1960.¹

Organized on 1 February 1961.

Discontinued, and inactivated, on 1 January 1964.²

Activated on 16 March 1967.

Organized on 8 April 1967.³

Inactivated on 4 January 1994.⁴

Redesignated 56th Civil Engineer Squadron on 21 March 1994.⁵

Activated 1 April 1994.⁶

Honors.

Campaign Streamers.

Vietnam

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II [1967-1968]

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III [1968]⁷

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV [1968-1969]

Tet 1969 Counteroffensive [1969]

Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969 [1969]



¹ AFOMO 536m, 28 December 1960

² AFOMO 90n, 16 September 1963 and SAC SO G-82, 25 September 1963

³ PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

⁴ ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

⁵ USAF/CE MSG 041900Z February 1994

⁶ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

⁷ PACAF SO G-184, 30 July 1969

Honors. (Continued)

Campaign Streamers. (Continued)

Vietnam Winter/Spring 1970 [1969-1970]⁸
Sanctuary Counteroffensive [1970]⁹
Southwest Monsoon [1970]
Commando Hunt V [1970-1971]¹⁰
Commando Hunt VI [1971]¹¹
Commando Hunt VII [1971-1972]¹²
Vietnam Cease Fire [1972-1973]¹³

Decorations.

Presidential Unit Citations

Southeast Asia 1 November 1968-1 May 1969¹⁴
Southeast Asia 1 October 1969-30 April 1970¹⁵
Southeast Asia 1 April 1972-22 February 1973.¹⁶

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 June 1970-31 May 1971 with Combat "V" Device¹⁷
1 December 1971-29 February 1972 with Combat "V" Device¹⁸
23 February 1973-28 February 1974 with Combat "V" Device¹⁹
24 January-2 May 1975 with Combat "V" Device²⁰

1 January 1977-1 January 1979²¹
1 October 1979-30 September 1980²²
1 July 1980-31 May 1982²³
1 June 1984-31 May 1986²⁴

⁸ PACAF SO G-352, 14 June 1971

⁹ PACAF SO GB-0019, 31 January 1974

¹⁰ PACAF SO GB-0022, 31 January 1974

¹¹ PACAF SO GB-0025, 31 January 1974

¹² PACAF SO GB-0027, 31 January 1974

¹³ PACAF SO GB-0187, 15 July 1974

¹⁴ DAF SO GB-552/1970

¹⁵ DAF SO GB-352, 14 June 1971

¹⁶ DAF SO GB-046, 20 January 1977

¹⁷ DAF SO GB-703, 9 November 1971

¹⁸ DAF SO GB-553, 31 July 1973

¹⁹ DAF SO GB-600, 17 July 1975

²⁰ USAF SO GB-623, 10 August 1976

²¹ DAF SO GB-719, 30 November 1979

²² DAF SO GB-122/1982

²³ DAF SO GB-117, 22 February 1983

²⁴ DAF SO GB-275/1987

Decorations. (Continued)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (Continued)

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

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

1 July 2019-30 June 2020⁴⁷

1 July 2020-30 June 2021⁴⁸

Special Honors.

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

Assignments. 56th Airdrome Group, 15 August 1947-31 July 1948. 56th Air Base Group, 1 August 1948-6 February 1952. 56th Air Base (later, 56th Combat Support) Group, 1 February 1961⁴⁹-1 January 1964.⁵⁰ 56th Combat Support (later, 56th Support) Group, 8 April 1967⁵¹-4 January 1994.⁵² 56th Support (later, 56th Mission Support) Group on 1 April 1994-.⁵³

Stations. Selfridge Field (later, Air Force Base), Michigan, 15 August 1947-6 February 1952. K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base, Michigan, 1 February 1961⁵⁴-1 January 1964.⁵⁵ Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, 8 April 1967⁵⁶-30 June 1975; MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, 30 June 1975-4 January 1994.⁵⁷ Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 1 April 1994-.⁵⁸

Aircraft. None.

⁴⁵ AETC SO G-057, 20 May 2019

⁴⁶ AETC SO G-013, 18 Dec 2019

⁴⁷ AETC SO G-013, 16 Dec 2020

⁴⁸ AETC SO G-009, 15 Nov 2021

⁴⁹ AFOMO 536m, 28 December 1960

⁵⁰ AFOMO 90n, 16 September 1963 and SAC SO G-82, 25 September 1963

⁵¹ PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

⁵² ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

⁵³ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994; AETC SO G-02-20, 23 June 2002

⁵⁴ AFOMO 536m, 28 December 1960

⁵⁵ AFOMO 90n, 16 September 1963 and SAC SO G-82, 25 September 1963

⁵⁶ PACAF SO G-41, 8 March 1967

⁵⁷ ACC SO GB-18, 30 December 1993

⁵⁸ AETC SO G-34, 25 March 1994

Emblem. Approved on 30 October 2003.

Blazon. On a disc per bend Or and Azure, emerging in front of a keystone outlined Tenné, voided of the field, an armed knight in prospect Proper garnished Sable, plumed Gules, on sinister arm a shield blazoned: “Tenné a chevron Azure, edged Or, thereon a lightning flash chevron-wise of the last, all within a narrow border Blue.

Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed “DRAGONSLAYERS” in Blue letters.

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

Motto. Dragonslayers.

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 knight with sword down represents the support provided by the Squadron to its parent wing by preparing it for battle. The shield is reminiscent of the coat of arms of the parent wing and reflects the unit’s contribution to a worldwide defense deployment capability.

Commanders.

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

Unknown	15 August 1947-1 August 1948
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56th Installations Squadron, Fighter, Jet [1 August 1948-20 January 1950]

Unknown	1 August 1948-20 January 1950
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56th Installations Squadron [20 January 1950-6 February 1952]

Unknown	20 January 1950
Lt Col Richard J. Coffee	bef 26 Mar 1951
Capt Tom E. LeRetilley	August 1951

Commanders. (Continued)

56th Civil Engineering Squadron [1 February 1961-1 January 1964; 8 April 1967-4 January 1994]

Lt Col D.C. Oldershaw	1 February 1961
Capt Wayne V. Jorgensen	July 1961
Maj James F. Klentzman	4 December 1961
Lt Col H.W. Pollock	bef 31 March 1962-
	aft 30 September 1963[thru Sep 1963]
Unknown	1 October 1963-1 January 1964
Maj Robert K. Jones	8 April 1967
Lt Col Sydney E. Key	26 April 1967 ⁵⁹
Maj Edmund H. Keranen	bef 20 November 1967
Lt Col Sydney E. Key	bef 6 February 1968
Lt Col John G. Rice	bef 31 March 1968
Maj Joe G. Winslow	bef 17 November 1968
Lt Col George R. Grube	bef 31 March 1969
Lt Col Ray C. Rawlston	bef 31 December 1969
Lt Col Harry H. Magazu	bef 30 June 1970
Lt Col John P. Turner	bef 30 September 1970
Maj Paul M. Richter	bef 30 September 1971
Lt Col Aaron A. Powers, Jr.	bef 30 June 1972
Maj Milton D. Rindahl	bef 31 March 1973
Lt Col Terrance E. Hobbs	13 July 1973
Lt Col Ernest E. Walkup	15 July 1974
Lt Col Donald L. Spurrier	bef 30 June 1975
Lt Col Vincent E. DelVecchio	30 June 1975
Lt Col David P. Gibbs	24 June 1977
Col Walter F. Tatum, Jr.	2 October 1978
Col Earle R. Cole	11 July 1983 ⁶⁰
Col Robert L. Bell	12 June 1985
Lt Col Gary C. Gibson	16 March 1988 ⁶¹
Col Walter L. Gray	15 August 1988 ⁶²
Lt Col Scott L. Smith	10 October 1990
Lt Col Jeffrey L. Tyley	July 1992-4 January 1994

⁵⁹ 56 CES SO 11, [26 April] 1967

⁶⁰ 56 CSG SO G-22, 11 July 1983

⁶¹ 56 CSG SO G-42, 16 March 1988

⁶² 56 CSG SO G-79, 12 August 1988

56th Civil Engineer Squadron [1 April 1994-.]

Lt Col Steven A. Bitler	1 April 1994 ⁶³
Lt Col Raymond E. Dinsmore	19 June 1995 ⁶⁴
Maj Joseph Lacatus	2 June 1997 ⁶⁵
Lt Col Steven E. Heorn	30 July 1997 ⁶⁶
Lt Col David C. Brewer	13 July 1999 ⁶⁷
Lt Col John R. Lohr	3 July 2001 ⁶⁸
Lt Col John P. Dewine	6 June 2003 ⁶⁹
Lt Col Douglas M. Hammer	17 June 2005 ⁷⁰
Lt Col Anthony R. Ramage	11 June 2007 ⁷¹
Lt Col John D. Thomas	2 July 2009 ⁷²
Lt Col Chad B. Bondurant	8 July 2011 ⁷³
Lt Col Kenneth B. Herndon	9 May 2013 ⁷⁴
Lt Col Gregory C. Mayer	17 June 2015 ⁷⁵
Lt Col Paul W. Fredin	30 June 2017 ⁷⁶
Lt Col Clint M. Townsend	3 June 2019 ⁷⁷
Maj Jeremy P. Kinne	1 July 2021-Present. ⁷⁸

Narrative.

The 56th Civil Engineer Squadron's lineage makes it one of the oldest units in the wing. On 28 July 1947, it was designated Squadron "C," 56th Airdrome Group. On 15 August 1947, it was organized at Selfridge Field (later, AFB), Michigan, and assigned to the 56th Airdrome Group. On 1 August 1948, the squadron turned over its personnel, equipment and facilities to the 56th Installations Squadron, Fighter, Jet, and was discontinued.

On 3 October 1984, the squadron was consolidated with the unit that replaced it. The 56th Installations Squadron, Fighter, Jet, was constituted on 14 June 1948. Activated on 1 August

⁶³ [58 MSS SO SO-G-48, 6 February 1992]

⁶⁴ 56 CES SO GP-002, c. 20 June 1995

⁶⁵ 56 CES SO G-001, 5 June 1997

⁶⁶ 56 CES SO SO-GP-02, c. 30 July 1997

⁶⁷ 56 CES SO G-001, 13 July 1999

⁶⁸ 56 CES SO G-004, 28 June 2001

⁶⁹ 56 CES SO 56 CES G-1, 6 June 2003

⁷⁰ 56 CES SO 56 CES G-1, 17 June 2005

⁷¹ 56 MSG SO MSG-07-06, 5 June 2007

⁷² 56MSG SO G-040, 16 July 2009

⁷³ 56 FSS SO G-022, 8 July 2011

⁷⁴ 56 MSG SO GS-15, 9 May 2013

⁷⁵ 56 MSG SO GS-09-15, 1 July 2015

⁷⁶ 56 MSG SO G-21-17, 10 July 2017

⁷⁷ 56 MSG SO G-19-021, 13 May 2019

⁷⁸ 56 MSG SO G-21-023, 8 June 2021

1948, it was assigned to the 56th Air Base Group. On 20 January 1950, it was redesignated as the 56th Installations Squadron. On 6 February 1952, the squadron inactivated.

On 28 December 1960, the unit was redesignated the 56th Civil Engineering Squadron, and activated. On 1 February 1961, it was organized at K.I. Sawyer AFB, Michigan, and assigned to the 56th Air Base (later, 56th Combat Support) Group. On 1 January 1964, the squadron was discontinued, and inactivated.

Activated on 16 March 1967, the squadron was organized on 8 April 1967 at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. It was assigned to the 56th Combat Support (later, 56th Support) Group. While in Thailand, the squadron earned 12 Campaign Streamers, 3 Presidential Unit Citations, 4 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device, and a Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm. On 30 June 1975, the squadron moved with the group and wing to MacDill AFB, Florida. On 4 January 1994, the squadron inactivated.

On 21 March 1994, the unit was redesignated as the 56th Civil Engineer Squadron. On 1 April 1994, it activated at Luke AFB, Arizona, and was again assigned to the 56th Support (later, 56th Mission Support) Group. Today the squadron provides technically sound combat ready engineers to build, sustain and protect Luke AFB through engineering and emergency response services.

Locally Updated 25 February 2022

Locally Updated by Rick Grisct