

56 AIR COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

167 Airways and Air Communications Service Squadron designated, 14 May 1948
Organized, 1 Jun 1948
Redesignated 1956 Airways and Air Communications Service Squadron, 1 Oct 1948
Redesignated 1956 Airways and Air Communications Service Group, 18 Sep 1959
Redesignated 1956 Communications Group, 1 Jul 1961
Redesignated 1956 Information Systems Group, 1 Aug 1984
Redesignated 1956 Communications Group, 1 Nov 1986
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1992
Redesignated 56 Air Communications Squadron, 12 Oct 2000
Activated, 27 Oct 2000
Redesignated 56 Air and Space Communications Squadron, 29 May 2003
Redesignated 56 Air Communications Squadron, 31 May 2014

STATIONS

Tokyo, Japan, 1 Jun 1948
Fuchu AB (later, Fuchu AS), Japan, 20 Aug 1953
Yokota AB, Japan, 30 Sep 1974-1 Apr 1992
Hickam AFB (later, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam), Hawaii, 27 Oct 2000

ASSIGNMENTS

68 Airways and Air Communications Service (AACCS) Group (later, 1809 AACCS Group; Far East AACCS Region; Far East Communications Region), 1 Jun 1948

Pacific Communications Area (later, Pacific Communications Division; Pacific Information Systems Division Pacific Communications Division), 1 Jul 1972

475 Air Base Wing, 1 Oct 1990-1 Apr 1992

502 Air Operations Group, 27 Oct 2000

613 Support Group, 6 Oct 2006

613 Air and Space Operations Center, 8 Oct 2010

COMMANDERS

Maj H. A. Mosenthin, Aug 1953

Lt Col Howland K. Johnson, Sep 1959

Col Rocco Sansone, 1 Jun 1960

Lt Col William H. Prince, 1963

Col Michael P. Yopchick, 15 Sep 1965

Col Edward J. Stenger, 18 Aug 1968

Col Franklin J. Hickman, Sr., 5 Jul 1969

Col Earle G. Cross, Jr., 10 Aug 1970

Lt Col Thomas M. Houston, 26 Oct 1970

Col Henry I. Jones, Jr., 4 Aug 1971

Col Louis P. Cyr, 1 Jul 1972

Col Henry I. Jones, Jr., 8 Aug 1972

Col Fred E. Brehm, 23 Jul 1975

Col Albert L. Tarvin, 19 Apr 1977

Col Edward Karolczyk, 28 May 1978

Col John N. Elliott, 4 Jul 1978

Col Richard A. Hamilton, 16 Jun 1981

Col Gerald E. Bronnenberg, 30 Jun 1981

Lt Col James W. Clutter (Interim), 14 Jun 1983

Col Jan P. Huggins, 22 Jun 1983

Col William J. Donahue, 5 Jul 1985

Lt Col Karl S. Scriba (Interim), 15 Jul 1987

Col John D. Culver, 30 Jul 1987

Col Kenneth R. Dirnberger, 26 May 1989

HONORS

Service Streamers

Korean Service

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Meritorious Unit Award
1 Nov 2011-13 Apr 2012

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1976-31 Dec 1977
1 Jan 1982-31 Dec 1983
1 Jan 1985-31 Dec 1986
1 Jul 2002-31 Aug 2004
1 Jun 2005-5 Oct 2006
6 Oct 2006-31 Oct 2007
1 Nov 2008-31 Oct 2010

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

1 Jan 2013-31 Dec 2014

EMBLEM



1956 Communications Group emblem: The Torii Gate represents the group's mission in the Far East, and the lightning bolts are symbolic of readiness and the Air Force Communications Command. The three distinct color divisions represent the three divisions within the group; operations, maintenance, and air traffic control. They also allude to the group's three communications missions, the 5th Air Force, the 475th Air Base Wing, and 1956th Communications Group. The resistor and ground represent the numerous communications and electronics systems which support the mission of United States Forces in the Northwest Pacific.

56 Air Communications Squadron emblem: On a disc Azure, a pile embowed concavely and beveled twice on each side Grebe (Silver Gray), edged as a lightning bolt Or, fretting the crosspieces of a Torii Gate issuing from base Gules. Overall a sword palewise point to base Yellow, hilted and hafted of the fourth, all within a diminished border Yellow. Attached above the disc, an Ultramarine Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "56TH ACOMS" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc an Ultramarine Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "SIGNUM DESUPER" 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 Torii Gate symbolizes the Gateway to the Pacific and the unit's mission in the Far East. The lightning bolts represent readiness and the communications element that supports the mission of the Pacific Air Forces Joint Air Operations Center. The three distinct color divisions represent the three major components (Army, Navy and Air Force) which operate together in an air operations center. The sword represents power and strength, and the motto means "Command From Above." (Approved, 15 Aug 2001)

MOTTO

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.

Major Command history. *A Salute to Air Force Communications Command Leaders and Lineage*. Office of Air Force Communications Command History. Scott AFB, IL. 1 Oct 1990.