

56 AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

56 Organizational Maintenance Squadron activated, 3 Jul 1972
Constituted, 7 Jul 1972
Inactivated, 15 Jul 1974
Activated, 30 Jun 1975
Redesignated 56 Aircraft Generation Squadron, 15 Jun 1977
Inactivated, 1 Nov 1991
Redesignated 56 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 17 Jul 2002
Activated, 27 Sep 2002

STATIONS

Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, 3 Jul 1972-15 Jul 1974
MacDill AFB, FL, 30 Jun 1975-1 Nov 1991
Luke AFB, AZ, 27 Sep 2002

ASSIGNMENTS

56 Special Operations Wing, 3 Jul 1972-15 Jul 1974
56 Tactical Fighter (later, 56 Tactical Training, 56 Fighter) Wing, 30 Jun 1975-1 Nov 1991
56 Maintenance Group, 27 Sep 2002

COMMANDERS

Unknown, 3 Jul 1972-Nov 1972
Lt Col Ray J. Lunnen, Jr., Nov 1972
Lt Col Wayne R. Bratcher, 31 Mar 1974

Maj Stanley D. Sebring, 19 May 1974-15 Jul 1974
Maj James L. Knoblauch, 30 Jun 1975
Lt Col John M. Hagood, 31 Mar 1976
Lt Col Robert J. Larison 1 Jun 1977
Maj Billy A. Barrett, 28 Jun 1977
Lt Col Robert J. Larison, 30 Sep 1977
Lt Col Leroy W. Stutz, 14 Mar 1980
Maj David F. Goodwin, 15 Jul 1983
Lt Col Brian L. Osborn, 29 Aug 1985
Maj Donald J. Wetekam, 2 Jul 1987
Lt Col Clarence L. Campbell, 3 Aug 1989
Lt Col Mark A. Taylor, 19 Sep 1990-1 Nov 1991
Lt Col Harry A. Truhn, 27 Sep 2002
Maj John C. Mateer, Iv 30 May 2003
Lt Col Walter J. Lindsley, 24 Jun 2004
Lt Col Fredrick G. Plaumann, 14 Jul 2006
Maj Brian P. Shawaryn, 11 Jul 2008
Lt Col Matthew G. Pollock, 21 Sep 2008
Lt Col James D. Upchurch, 23 Aug 2010
Maj Jason M. Mitchell, 27 Jun 2012

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam

Vietnam Ceasefire [1972-1973]

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citation

Vietnam, [3 Jul] 1972-22 Feb 1973

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device
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 April 1989

1 May 1989-30 April 1990

1 May 1990-30 April 1991

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

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross With Palm
3 Jul 1972-28 Jan 1973

EMBLEM



56 Aircraft Generation Squadron emblem: On a disc edged with a narrow yellow border, a background divided horizontally into a medium blue sky with a stylized White cloud formation issuing from sinister, above a green arced land area, overall issuing from base four arced vapor trails ascending bendwise, attached in base and dispersing in the top of the disc, each ending in a flight symbol, the colors from dexter to sinister yellow, white, blue and red. Attached above the disc a white scroll edged yellow and inscribed "CAN DO" in blue letters. Attached below the disc a blank white scroll edged yellow. Blue and 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 red cross represents strength within the medical arena; it also symbolizes the "blanket" of medical commitment provided by unit personnel to both flying and non-flying military members. The Caduceus, the symbolic staff of a herald, is at the point of the futuristic aircraft. This position signifies that the unit is ready to supply aeromedical support to aircrews, personnel and the environmental elements of space. The earth signifies the worldwide commitment of peacekeeping and the environmental protection of air, water and land. (Approved, 19 Mar 1979)



56 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron emblem: On a disc parted per fess convex and tilted to dexter Celeste and Vert, four contrails conjoined issuing out of sinister base ascending bendwise to diverge in dexter chief, each barbed at the point Or, Argent, Azure and Gules. Couched in sinister chief, a cloud formation Proper, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached below the disc, a Green scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "56 AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQ" in Yellow letters. 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 aircraft symbols represent the unit's standards of excellence, valor, trust and determination. The unity of the take off symbolizes teamwork while maintaining the unit's independence, as seen in the dispersion at the top of the arc. (Approved, 30 Jan 2003)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 56 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron is the largest aircraft maintenance squadron in the Air Force. The squadron provides intermediate and flight line maintenance for more than 100 Block 20, 25 and 52 F-16 C/D aircraft. Manned with 850 personnel, the squadron's primary focus is to ensure mission-ready aircraft are maintained to support basic F-16 training for U.S. Air Force active and reserve components, Republic of Singapore Air Force, and Taiwan Air Force pilots. In order to accomplish this task, the squadron is divided into five Aircraft Maintenance Units supporting their associate fighter squadrons. The Aircraft Maintenance Units are the 21st Aircraft Maintenance Unit "Gamblers," the 61st Aircraft Maintenance Unit "Top Dogs," the 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit "Spikes," the 309th Aircraft Maintenance Unit "Wild Ducks," and 425th Aircraft Maintenance Unit "Black Widows."

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.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.