

## 56 AIR TRANSPORTABLE HOSPITAL



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

56 Station Medical Group designated, 28 Jul 1947

Organized, 15 Aug 1947

Discontinued, 1 Aug 1948

56 Station Medical Group constituted, 14 Jun 1948

Activated, 1 Aug 1948

Redesignated 56 Medical Group, 6 May 1949

Inactivated, 6 Feb 1952

Redesignated 56 USAF Infirmary, 20 Jun 1955

Activated, 18 Aug 1955

Redesignated 56 USAF Dispensary, 8 May 1957

Redesignated 56 USAF Hospital, 1 Nov 1960

Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Jan 1964

Redesignated 56 USAF Dispensary and activated, 16 Mar 1967

Organized, 8 Apr 1967

Redesignated 56 USAF Hospital, 1 Sep 1972

Inactivated, 30 Jun 1975

56 Station Medical Group and 56 USAF Hospital consolidated, 8 May 1986

Redesignated 56 Tactical Hospital, 8 May 1986  
Activated, 15 Mar 1987  
Redesignated 56 Air Transportable Hospital, 1 Nov 1991  
Inactivated, 4 Jan 1994

## **STATIONS**

Selfridge Field (later, Selfridge AFB), Michigan, 15 Aug 1947-6 Feb 1952  
O'Hare Intl Aprt, Illinois, 18 Aug 1955  
K. I. Sawyer AFB, Michigan, 1 Oct 1959-1 Jan 1964  
Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai AFB, Thailand, 8 Apr 1967-30 Jun 1975  
MacDill AFB, Florida, 15 Mar 1987-4 Jan 1994

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

56 Fighter (later, 56 Fighter Interceptor) Wing, 15 Aug 1947-6 Feb 1952  
56 Fighter Group, 18 Aug 1955  
56 Fighter Wing, 1 Feb 1961-1 Jan 1966  
Pacific Air Forces, 16 Mar 1967  
56 Air Commando (later, 56 Special Operations) Wing, 8 Apr 1967-30 Jun 1975  
56 Medical Group, 15 Mar 1987- 4 Jan 1994

## **COMMANDERS**

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III  
Vietnam Air/Ground  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV  
TET 69/Counteroffensive  
Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969  
Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970  
Sanctuary Counteroffensive  
Southwest Monsoon  
Commando Hunt V  
Commando Hunt VI  
Commando Hunt VII  
Vietnam Ceasefire

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

Presidential Unit Citation

1 Nov 1968- 1 May 1969

1 Oct 1969- 30 Apr 1970

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Dec 1970-30 Nov 1971

1 Dec 1971-29 Feb 1972

23 Feb 1972-28 Feb 1974

24 Jan-2 May 1975

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

8 Apr 1967-28 Jan 1973

## **EMBLEM**

56 USAF Dispensary: On a disc divided per bend black and Air Force Yellow, an Air Force blue bend wavy, fimbriated Air Force yellow against the black. On the upper portion a white winged torch enflamed red, fimbriated yellow, the torch entwined by a green serpent; on the bottom portion, a red cross, the disc within an Air Force yellow border. Attached below the disc a blank white scroll edged Air Force yellow. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the Hospital. The Staff of Aesculapius is representative of the Air Force medical service and with the red cross, international symbol of mercy, indicates the unit's mission. The yellow background symbolizing ripened rice and the bar wavy (heraldic symbol for water) denote the unit's overseas service in Southeast Asia. The black background symbolizes night and death; also, the night missions of the Southeast Asia base to which the unit was attached. The emblem bears the Air Force colors golden yellow and ultramarine blue. (Approved, 19 Jul 1967)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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### Sources

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