

# FCP Visions

To serve and support the men, women, families and mission of Luke Air Force Base



Summer 2017

## Luke AFB temporarily cancels F-35 local flying ops

### Five physiological incidents reported

June 9, the following press release was sent to media outlets, letting the public know about the cancellation of F-35 flights at Luke Air Force Base.

The 56th Fighter Wing at Luke cancelled local flying operations for F-35A Lightning II aircraft due to a series of five incidents in which pilots have experienced hypoxia-like symptoms.

According to base officials, since May 2, five F-35A pilots assigned to Luke Air Force Base have reported physiological incidents while flying. In each case, the aircraft's backup oxygen system operated as designed and the pilot followed the correct procedures, landing the aircraft safely.

"In order to synchronize operations and maintenance efforts toward safe flying operations

we have cancelled local F-35A flying. The Air Force takes these physiological incidents seriously, and our focus is on the safety and well-being of our pilots," said Brig. Gen. Brook Leonard, 56th Fighter Wing commander. "We are taking the necessary steps to find the root cause of these incidents."

June 12, Luke officials updated their information with the following release:

"The 56th Fighter Wing will continue their pause in local F-35A flying to coordinate analysis and communication between pilots, maintainers, medical professionals and a team of military and industry experts. This coordination will include technical analysis of the physiological incidents to date and discussions on possible risk mitigation options to enable a return



Photo courtesy Luke Air Force Base

**The F-35A was grounded June 9 at Luke Air Force Base as officials investigate the hypoxia symptoms reported by pilots.**

to flying operations. Updates will be provided as our teams work together toward safely returning to building the future of airpower through trained F-35A pilots. The safety of our Airmen is paramount and we will take as much time as necessary to ensure their safety."

Wing officials will educate U.S. and international pilots to-

day on the situation and increase their awareness of hypoxia symptoms. Pilots will also be briefed on all the incidents that have occurred and the successful actions taken by the pilots to safely recover their aircraft. Flight medicine will brief physiological event symptoms and also the extensive measures that are being taken to analyze data

collected from the incidents. Finally, the 56th Operations Group will hold an open forum to discuss any concerns pilots may have, given these recent occurrences.

Currently, the local flying operations cancellation is limited to Luke Air Force Base.

Air Force senior leaders are aware of the incidents and are providing support and resources as necessary to protect pilots. More broadly, the F-35 Joint Program Office has stood up a formal action team of engineers, maintainers and aeromedical specialists to examine the incidents to better understand the issue. These subject matter experts will share the data across the F-35 enterprise and with partner nations.

As of press time for Fighter Country Partnership's VISIONS publication, the F-35A was still grounded.



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Fighter Country Partnership



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## Cook takes command of the 944th Fighter Wing

By STAFF SGT.  
LAUSANNE KINDER  
944TH FIGHTER WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 944th Fighter Wing welcomed their new wing commander during a formal ceremony June 3.

Col. Kurt Gallegos relinquished command of the wing to Col. Bryan Cook, 944 FW vice commander.

The wing's guidon was exchanged during the ceremony as a symbolic gesture providing a tangible view of the command authority being transferred from one commander to the next.

The presiding officer was Maj. Gen. Ronald Miller, 10th Air Force commander, who opened with remarks.

"Always there," Miller said. "As the mission is changed and the wing grows, always there is important. So for all the Airmen out there why are you always here? What is your always there moment? Why are you doing what you're doing? You have a great mission and it's only going to get better as we fly fewer F-16s and fly more F-35s. We will always be there as a partner for the 56th Fighter Wing. We will always be



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech Sgt. Nestor Cruz

**Maj. Gen. Ronald Miller, 10th Air Force commander, Col. Kurt Gallegos, 944th Fighter Wing commander, and Col. Bryan Cook, 944 FW vice commander, stand at attention June 3 during a Change-of-Command ceremony at Luke Air Force Base.**

there as a partner in the Air Force mission."

After taking command, Cook, who has been with the 944th since January 2016, addressed the Airmen highlighting his three priorities as the new commander: readiness, Total Force Enterprise, and developing and mentoring our Airmen.

"I need you to be ready," Cook said. "Ready to deploy, ready both mentally and physically and make sure that that your families are ready."

He also talked about fostering relationships between the wing and their

active duty partners, mentorship as a priority and the three focus areas he would like to improve upon.

"We need to embrace [our heritage] and create our own legacy," said Cook. "I need every Airman to be a leader both in and out of uniform... I need you to take care of your family not just at home but your Air Force family. Everybody standing next to you in uniform is part of your family."

Cook concluded by thanking Gallegos for his leadership, mentorship, and friendship throughout the years.

"You showed us how we take care of Airmen, and you've been a great leader for the 944th Fighter Wing," said Cook to Gallegos. "You've also been a great mentor to me and many others here and most of all, you've been a great friend. I can't wait to get started. This is a great day and I couldn't be more proud of our Airmen in the 944th and the missions we accomplish."

Under Gallegos' command, the wing has integrated the Air Force Reserve pilot training programs for F-15E, A-10 and F-35 missions. The wing is also postured to stand up a 944th Maintenance Group and has grown by more than 1,000 personnel.

"Col. Cook you are inheriting the best wing in the Air Force," Gallegos said. "It's the largest fighter wing in the world, phenomenal airpower, unbelievable troops, unbelievable staff, I'm jealous of you. To the Airmen, I love you and I salute you."

The change of command ceremony was followed by Gallegos' retirement ceremony after having served 32 years in the U.S. Air Force.

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We want to thank you for your sponsorship for the 8th Annual Fighter Country Partnership Honorary Commanders Golf Classic this year! Because of your support, we have exceeded our expectations and will be able to support more programs that will benefit the men, women, families and mission of Luke Air Force Base. You should be proud of the contribution you've made to this worthy cause. Your generosity makes it possible for FCP to host events and programs such as the following:

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- Officer's Spouses' Club scholarship program for military dependents
- Honorary Commander's Program support
- Air Force Ball and 56th and 944th Fighter Wing Annual Awards ceremonies

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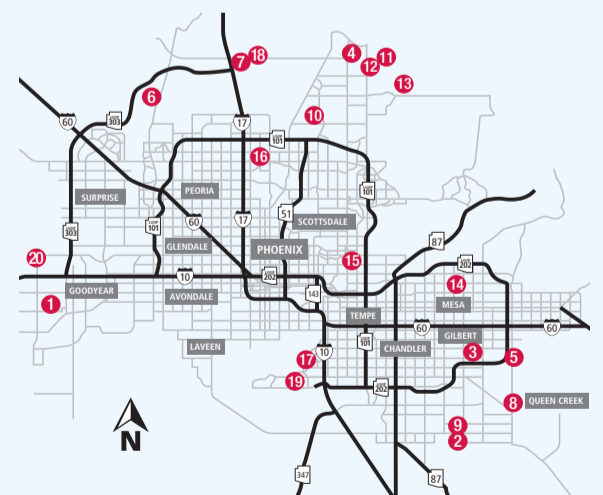
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# Luke teams 'blitz' Glendale and Peoria

Luke Air Force Base's Service Blitz Day, a day of service conducted throughout the Valley, is intended to give back to the community in which they live, which fits perfectly with the mission of Glendale and Peoria's community volunteer programs.

Projects such as these, fueled by volunteer assistance, not only helps improve the quality of life for residents, but also gives volunteers a sense of pride by contributing to improvements in their community.

June 16, personnel from Luke, military and civilian, along with Glendale Parks staff, gathered at the southwest corner of 99th and Northern avenues to remove weeds and dead plant materials, rake granite areas, pick up trash and plant several new trees.

They started working 5 a.m. and stayed at the site until 10 a.m. Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers and Luke AFB Wing Commander, Gen. Brooke Leonard showed up to offer support.

In Peoria, approxi-



Photos by Ron Morrison

Above, Luke Air Force Base Airmen chop out weeds along New River Trail at 99th Avenue, and right, a worker from the City of Glendale loads up the trash and debris to dump in a large bin.



mately 80 Airmen from Luke offered to support a Neighborhood Pride type volunteer project. The city selected a home and family from a previous Neighborhood Pride community that met all of the program and volunteer requirements.

The home is in the Acacia Council District and the work performed included house painting, xeriscaping of the front yard, gate repair and repainting, wall painting and debris removal from the residence exterior. The Community Assistance Division supplemented volunteer labor by providing the necessary supplies and materials to complete the effort.

Acacia Councilmember Vicki Hunt said, "One of the people who live here, plus one child, is disabled. This has made it difficult to keep up with repairs to their home. This project is a lifesaver for them."

Lt. Col. Virgil Scott turned the project into a competition between two different teams under his supervision. It motivated team members to work faster as they shoveled landscape rocks into wheelbarrows. Soon, it would be 8 a.m., time to take a breakfast break with the meal donated by Chick-fil-A.

McDonald's, Fry's and Sam's Club also donated food, water, and Powerade drinks.



Photo by Carolyn Dryer

Lt. Col. Virgil Scott (facing camera) leads his crew from the 56th Medical Squadron at Luke Air Force Base in a refurbishing 'Service Blitz' project on 72nd Drive in Peoria.

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# Honorary Commander:

# Bill Adams, owner, Ryan Austin and Associates

Fighter Country Partnership is proud to feature Bill Adams, an alumni member of the Honorary Commanders Program and currently a Life member of the Blue Blazer Squadron of Fighter Country Partnership. Adams was assigned to the Command Chief of the 944th Fighter Wing at Luke Air Force Base from 2012 to 2014 and is a highly engaged community leader.



Bill Adams

Adams is currently serving his third four-year term on the Governing Board of the Washington Elementary School District. This is his first term as president. He has served three terms as vice president (2009-2010, 2014, 2015). He also served on the Arizona School Board Association Board of Directors for four years and is a proud and active member of Support Our Schools AZ (SOSaz), a public education advocacy group.

Adams has been a member of WESTMARC, serving on their Education and

Healthcare Committees, which promotes public policies leading to responsible growth.

Adams is the owner of Ryan Austin and Associates, a full-service insurance agency and has a working relationship with Valley Schools Management Group, both specializing in employee benefits. He is the spouse of an educator and has two sons, both of whom attended WESD schools.

When asked what it was like being an Honorary Commander with

the 944th Fighter Wing at Luke AFB, he said, "Unbelievable!" "Being assigned to the Command Chief (top enlisted person responsible for all the enlisted troops) of the 944th Fighter Wing gave me great insight into what our civilian airmen do. These individuals are reservist, they are our neighbors and many of them are being deployed around the world.

"I am most impressed with how much Luke's leadership cares about their Airmen. Whenever we are in a briefing or just socializing with the commanders, they are always talking about their troops. From continued education within their career fields to the well-being of their personal life, these leaders, both commanders and their NCO's care so much for their people and their families. Their passion for their troops was undeniable."

The Honorary Commanders program is de-



Bill Adams is enjoying a KC-10 aircraft tanker ride with other members of Fighter Country Partnership mid-air refueling F-16 fighter aircraft.

signed to promote mutual partnerships with the local community and to promote a better understanding of the important Air Force mission. Its goal is to gain positive public opinion with influencers.

"Having enlisted into the Air Force towards the end of the Vietnam War, Fighter Country Partnership has allowed me to take the pride I have always had for the Air Force and ratcheted it up," Adams said. "I now have exposure to these young profession-

als. I get to watch them do their job, talk to them about their personal and family life and sometimes participate in programs that offer advice on their future outside the military. I believe the FCP organization has out-performed everyone's expectations. No one knew it would grow into an organization that is viewed all around the world as the best of the best when it comes to supporting our men and women in uniform."

"The most memorable

time as an Honorary Commander was my familiarization ("Fam") flight in an F-16 aircraft with Colonel Kurt "Huevos" Gallegos, Commander of the 944th Fighter Wing. I had the rare opportunity to experience what it is like to drop bombs (inert) and strafe a target utilizing the F-16's 20mm gun while seating in the back seat, making these runs with Colonel Gallegos. This was a pure adrenaline

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# COMMANDER: 'I will never forget this, From 8

rush! I will never forget this and be forever grateful to all those that made this happen, especially Colonel Gallegos and Fighter Country Partnership!"

Adams helped his military partners in more ways than you can mention here in this article. Just a few of his contributions include:

- Having his military partners participate in numerous community events such as WestMarc and various city functions throughout the years.
- Supported and worked numerous Luke Days Open Houses (air shows)
- Supported several Air Force Balls
- Supported several 56th FW and 944th FW Annual Awards Banquets
- Participated in a civic leader tour to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona
- Participated in a tour of the Lockheed Martin Plant (F-35 aircraft)
- Supported and participated in the Barry M. Goldwater Range tour and the Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field visit
- Numerous change of



Bill Adams is excited about his orientation flight and, right, after landing in the F-16 aircraft with the 944th Fighter Wing.



Col. Kurt "Huevos" Gallegos, Commander of the 944th Fighter Wing (left), Jackie and Bill Adams and their son, Ryan, at the F-16 aircraft during a familiarization flight.

command ceremonies

- Salute to the Troops Concert
- POW/MIA Recognition Day Retreat Ceremony
- Ribbon cutting and grand opening of F-35A Academic Training Center
- Supported numerous Fam Flights for fellow Honorary Commanders
- Supported and worked at "Wingman Day"
- Participated in numerous tours of the base with community and civic leaders
- Ribbon cutting cere-

mony of the Luke Fire Station Renovation Project

- Worked numerous FCP Honorary Commanders Golf Tournaments
- Speed Mentoring event at Luke AFB
- 944th FW Holiday Party
- Aircraft Maintenance and Component Maintenance Tours
- Super Bowl Blitz concert at Luke AFB
- March of the Fallen at Verrado
- FCP Phone Bank
- FCP/FCF Annual Meetings

"I always try my hardest to say yes whenever I am asked to help those at Luke AFB and I can honestly say that the Commanders and fellow Honorary Commanders and Blue Blazers I have been associated with throughout the years have become great friends."

"I am most honored to have been invited into the Blue Blazer Squadron. This organization allows me to still be involved as an alumnus Honorary Commander and continue serving the men and wom-

en of Luke AFB. With the BBS, there is an expectation that you step up and help when asked. You have a responsibility to be there when needed. As a Blue Blazer, we're also very fortunate to be invited to some really fantastic events like a tour of the F-35 Academic Training Center and the F-16 Simulator Facility."

"The most rewarding and enjoyable part of being associated with FCP is the amazing friendships I have made along the way and all the people I have met that

are either currently serving or have served our country. I consider myself blessed in that FCP was so kind to have invited me into this world. FCP's dedication to those that serve out at Luke is amazing and I will be forever grateful!

When asked if there was anything else he would like to add to encourage the community to take part in support of the base, Mr. Adams said, "Should you run into someone who serves out at Luke AFB, regardless of service... say Thank You!!!"

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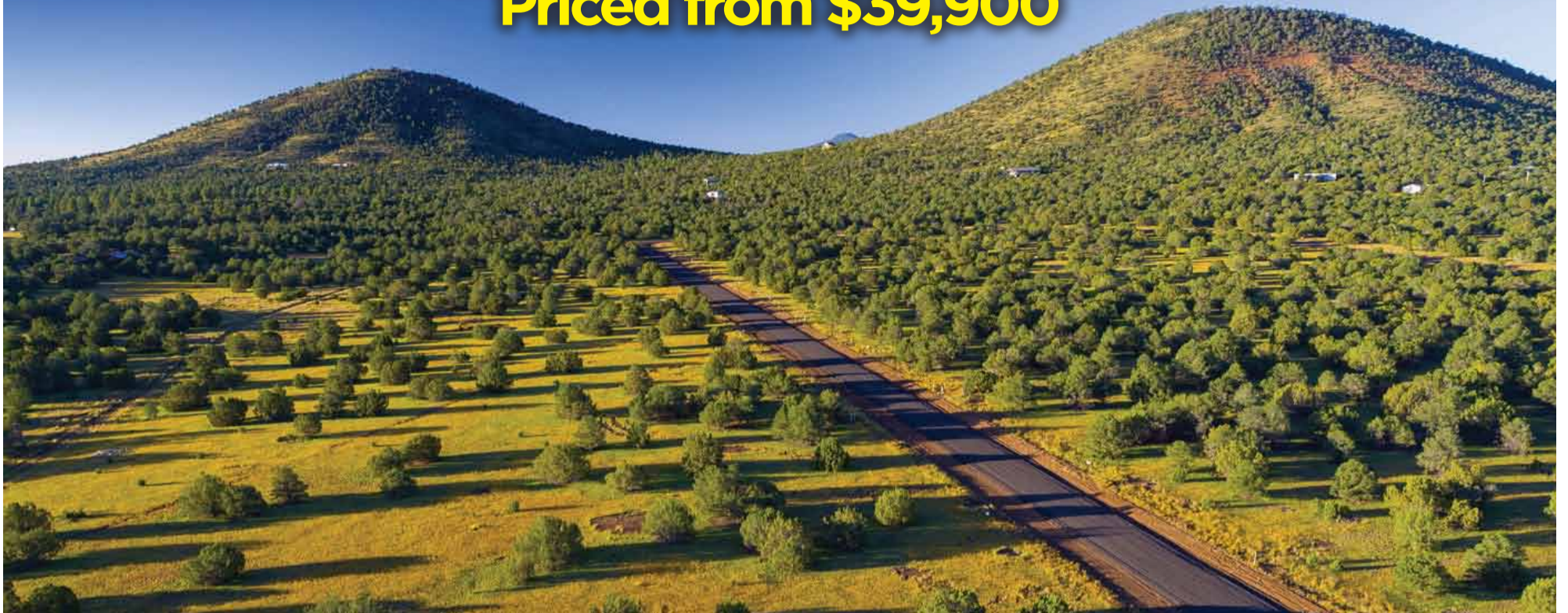
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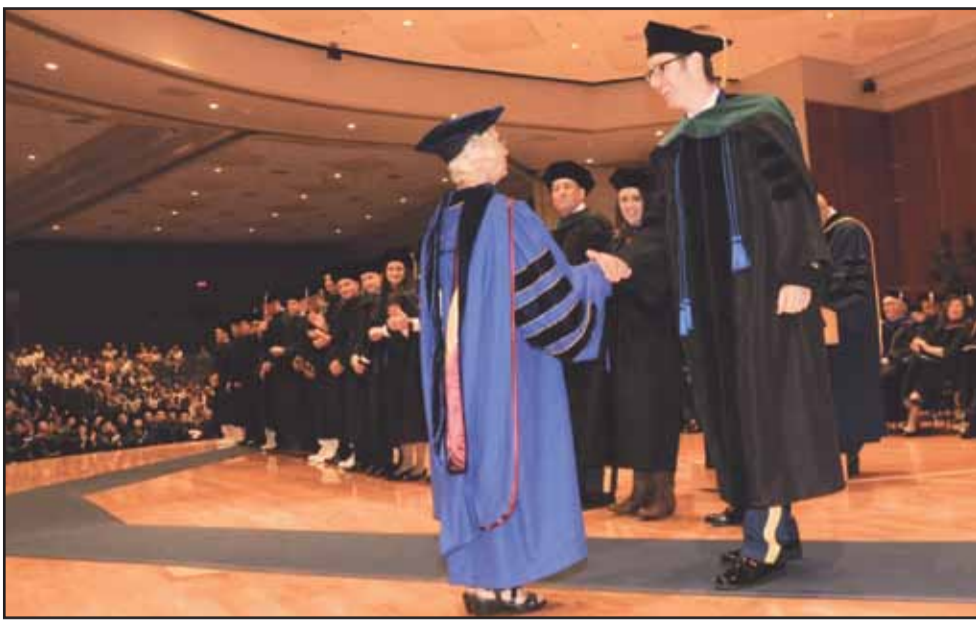
# Midwestern University honors military healthcare graduates

Military graduates representing four Midwestern University Colleges received special honors from University President and Chief Executive Officer Kathleen H. Goepfing during commencement ceremonies held over the last week of May and beginning of June.

After receiving their degrees and hoods with the rest of their classes, graduates who are either currently serving in or will soon begin military careers were invited on stage with Goepfing, who presented them with a special commemorative coin honoring their service. Separate commissioning ceremonies were held to officially induct graduates into their respective service branches.

Each coin features a Midwestern University seal on one side, and on the other, a thank-you message for the student's dedication to serving the United States. The gift is derived from a military tradition dating back to World War I.

"The coin represents



Photos courtesy Midwestern University

**Military graduates representing four Midwestern University Colleges received special honors from University President and CEO Kathleen H. Goepfing, during commencement ceremonies held over the last week of May and beginning of June.**

a gift in recognition of what these individuals are doing, not only for their professions, but for their country," said Goepfing.

Forty-five graduates representing the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine, the College of Dental Medicine-Arizona, the College of Pharmacy-Glendale, and the College of Health Sciences were

recognized during commencement ceremonies. The 22 AZCOM graduates represent the largest cohort of military graduates in the college's history.

### Air Force general attends ceremony

A special guest from the United States military attended Midwestern University commencement ceremonies and performed

a commissioning ceremony for military graduates on the Glendale Campus this spring.

Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Douglas J. Robb, director, Defense Health Agency (DHA), is the second-highest ranking general officer in the United States Air Force and a 1984 graduate from Midwestern University's Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. He has



**U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Douglas J. Robb, director of the Defense Health Agency, was a special guest at the Midwestern military commencement ceremony.**

spent 20 years in the practice of aerospace medicine in support of Air Force, joint, and coalition aviation forces. Robb elected to attend the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine's graduation ceremony after meeting with Anette Gawelko, clinical assistant professor, at a conference earlier this year.

Following AZCOM's commencement, Robb presided over a commis-

sioning ceremony that included members of the college's largest-ever contingent of military graduates who represented the United States Army, Navy, and Air Force. After delivering his remarks, Robb personally swore in the graduates to their respective services. Those sworn in at this ceremony will be able to count their residency time as active years of military service.

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# Contracting Squadron director wins Small Business Specialist Award

The Air Force Small Business Program awarded Luke Thunderbolt, Mary Peetz, the 2016 Small Business Specialist Award for her excellent work advocating small businesses for the warfighter.

For almost a decade Peetz, 56th Contracting Squadron director of business operations/small business specialist, has led Luke in ranking top within Air Education and Training Command for meeting its small business goals.

"It's been seven years now that we have been number one in AETC for meeting our small business goals," Peetz said. "We did this by awarding more dollars to small businesses than anyone else in the command."

As a small business specialist, Peetz reviews requirements and ensures small businesses are considered.

"Every purchase requirement with a value more than \$10,000 dollars must come across my desk," Peetz said. "We have to look first at small businesses when deter-



The Air Force Small Business Program awarded Luke Thunderbolt, Mary Peetz, the 2016 Small Business Specialist Award for her excellent work advocating small businesses for the warfighter.

mining our acquisition approach. This year, 91 percent of every dollar spent went to a small business."

Meeting small business goals takes dedication and reflects highly on Peetz's ability to lead this effort.

"This is a huge win for the unit," said Lt.Col. Rochelle Smith, 56 CONS commander. "We place a lot of emphasis on sour-

ing to small businesses in our acquisition planning and execution. Helping small businesses isn't always easy, but this award reminds all of us the effort is appreciated at the Air Force level. Ms. Peetz outreach to small businesses has created a level of partnership unparalleled at the bases I have seen in the last 16 years."

Peetz has excelled at

meeting the 56th Fighter Wing's small business goals and employs more than 200 small business contractors. These companies provide everything from computers that sit on the Airmen's desk to the base operations at the Barry M. Goldwater Range.

"The 56th Fighter Wing is given goals to support small business to include woman owned,

HUBZone, service disabled veterans, and small disadvantage businesses," Peetz said. "The wing is given goals for how many dollars we award to those specific socioeconomic categories."

Peetz has organized small business training workshops, rewritten Air Force Instruction on small business practices, piloted courses for the small business career field and created an expanding Facebook presence to educate small businesses.

"For the past three years, I have been a member of an Air Force training cell team that writes the small business Air Force Instruction, organizes Department of Defense and Air Force small business workshops and develops management inspection checklists," Peetz said. "That's a big part of what I do as a small business specialist. I decided to create a Facebook page as a public place to post requirements for small businesses over five years ago. I currently have over 600 small businesses that

follow the page. In addition, it helps me share information such as Luke Air Force Base prime contractors for subcontracting opportunities, how to do businesses with Luke AFB, what a government purchase card is and what we buy on this card."

Her effective team leadership propels her beyond the call of duty to accomplish the mission.

"Ms. Peetz brings everything together," Smith said. "Often contracting and the acquisition process can be daunting both for customers and contractors who want to work with the Air Force. Ms. Peetz is able to effectively communicate with both the customers and prospective contractors to ensure Airmen get the products and services they need to accomplish their mission day in and day out. Our squadron is thrilled to have the Air Force affirm what we already know, Ms. Peetz is truly top notch both as a small business specialist and as a consummate contracting professional."

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# Luke civil engineers partner to tackle B.A.S.H

By STAFF SGT. MARCY COPELAND  
56TH FIGHTER WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Airmen from seven bases across the country partnered with Luke Air Force Base civil engineers to accomplish the annual Bird/Wildlife Air Strike Hazard mission, which began in March and is expected to be completed in June.

Known as BASH, the program exists to deter wildlife from nesting in areas where they can pose a threat to the flying mission. This year's project focused on the removal of mud, water, and vegetative growth around the perimeter of the base.

"Due to the large scale of the project, we came here to support the 56th Civil Engineer Squadron," said SSgt Darrell Osborne, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron construction and pavement journeyman. "Working as one team, we get the opportunity to train and work together with Luke on this project to make the airfields safe."

Airmen from Ellsworth,



U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Marcy Copeland

**A loader carries a bucket full of sludge May 30, 2017 in Glendale, Az. Airmen from seven bases across the country partnered with Luke Air Force Base for the annual Bird/Wildlife Air Strike Hazard project to clear away more than 1,000 tons of mud, vegetation and debris from around the perimeter of the base to deter the local bird and wildlife population and keep the airfields safe.**



**An excavator works to remove sludge May 30, 2017 in Glendale. Airmen from seven other air bases partnered with Luke Air Force Base for the annual Bird/Wildlife Air Strike Hazard project.**

Fairchild, Malmstrom, Travis, Schriever, Joint Base Andrews and Grand Forks air force bases traveled to Luke to assist the 56th CES with the project.

"This is a great opportunity for Airmen from civil engineer squadrons across the country to come and diversify their knowledge," said Master Sgt. Michael McMurray, 341th

Civil Engineer Squadron heavy repair superintendent. "They are involved in a project that provides them training on things they will not get to experience at their bases."

The project began with placing bird netting to prevent nesting. The next step was to spray and remove the vegetation in the culverts to deter wildlife, thus preventing birds from

hunting or trying to nest.

"We are eliminating the habitats for all of the birds surrounding the airfield," McMurray said. "It's a big safety concern and we want to protect our fighters as well as the wildlife."

More than 1,000 tons of vegetation and debris has been removed during the project with a long term effort underway to complete an underground system to

convey irrigation.

"Due to the current manning and increased volume of work requests on base in the pavement and construction equipment shop, we needed help to tackle this high priority job," said Master Sgt.

Junior Bablington, 56th CES superintendent of heavy repair. "These Airmen were able to assist and received an opportunity to train on heavy equipment. Really, when it comes down to it, it's Airmen helping Airmen."

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# Honor Flight veterans get rousing welcome home

By RANDY MILLER  
GLENDALE DAILY PLANET

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The announcement over the intercom at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport May 25 changed from advising passengers of boarding times to announcing the arrival of Honor Flight. Twenty-five veterans were returning from a three-day trip to Washington, D.C.

It was an inspirational sight to see so many people stop what they were doing and "man the rails" to welcome them back. The announcement came almost 15 minutes before the returning veterans of



**Old Breed Detachment #767 prepares to lead the procession honoring the veterans through the airport.**

WW II and Korea disembarked and made their way up the ramp, but no one left.

There was a feeling of anticipation as they all waited to honor these men and women from the wars of so long ago.

Finally, the Honor

Flight veterans started to arrive, and as each person stepped out of the boarding ramp they received heartfelt applause from the entire crowd.

There were no dissenting voices, no protesters, just a well-deserved welcome back for a very de-



Photos by Randy Miller/Glendale Daily Planet -

**Frank DeCaro does the rolling wave with well wishers.**

serving group of American veterans.

In fact, upon discovery of one man's birthday, a round of Happy Birthday spontaneously broke out. It was a sight this reporter was privileged to be a part of.

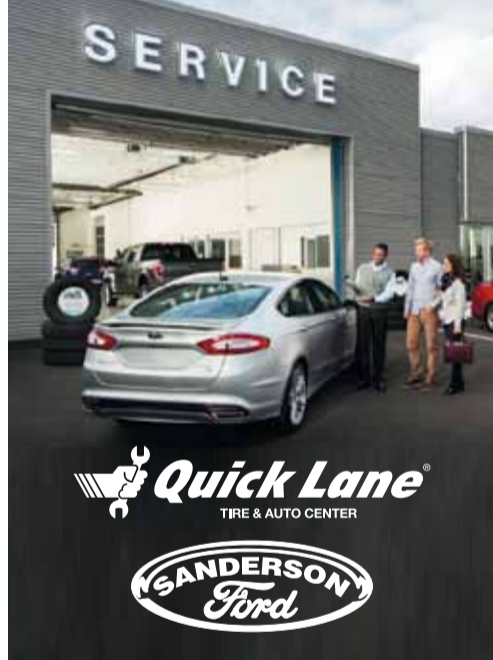
The rails were also lined

by the Old Breed Detachment #767 of the Marine Corps League, who displayed and marched with the flags of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, POW/MIA, and of course, America.

As the returning veterans assembled for the final

ceremony of their trip, the Marines of the Old Breed led the procession with the colors of all services proudly on display.

To learn more about the Honor Flight trips for veterans to Washington, D.C., visit [www.honor-flight.org](http://www.honor-flight.org).



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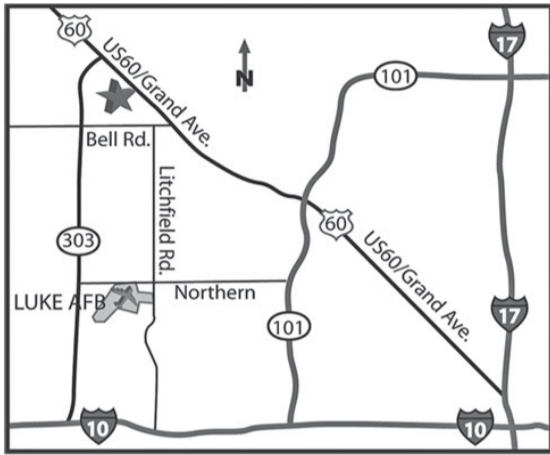
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\*Must present coupon at time of write up. May not be combined with any other offer or special. Up to 5 quarts. Synthetic oil slightly higher. valid at Earnhardt Hyundai in Avondale. Limit 1 per customer. Tax and environmental fees extra. Exp 09/30/17

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# LAFB summer blood donors entered to win 2017 Volkswagen Passat

As the summer vacation season goes into full swing, so do United Blood Services' efforts to ramp up blood donations. Vacations and school recesses prevent many organizations from holding blood drives in the summer months – the source of more than half of Arizona's blood supply. The weeks surrounding the July 4th holiday have traditionally been the most difficult time of the summer to meet patient blood needs.

To help solve this problem, Luke Air Force Base has scheduled several blood drives to make it convenient to save lives.

For a list of locations and to make an appointment, visit [www.BloodHero.com](http://www.BloodHero.com) (Sponsor Code: LAFB), or call 1-877-UBS-HERO (827-4376) – base access



Photo courtesy United Blood Services

**Adelyn undergoes blood transfusions once a month to ensure she has red blood cells to survive. She suffers from Diamond Blackfan Anemia, a rare genetic disorder that prevents her tiny body from producing red blood cells.**

credentials required.

Give blood this summer at Luke Air Force Base and be automatically entered to win a 2017 VW Passat R-Line. Valley Volkswagen dealers have donated the car and partnered with United Blood Services in the 8th annual campaign to help inspire more people to give blood this summer.

Ten finalists will be drawn to participate in the grand prize drawing, who will be unveiled throughout the summer on AZ-TV, proud media partner for the "Summer Drive to Save Lives" campaign.

During the three-month summer campaign with Valley Volkswagen Dealers, United Blood Services hopes to attract nearly 50,000 blood donors to save lives in Arizona hospitals. Those donors

will help kids like 18-month-old Adelyn, who received her 22nd blood transfusion three weeks ago at Phoenix Children's Hospital.

The Ahwatukee toddler was born with Diamond Blackfan Anemia, a rare genetic disorder that prevents her tiny body from producing red blood cells. Every month, she relies on the generosity of strangers to donate lifesaving blood – a need that could continue the rest of her life.

"You might not realize the importance of giving blood, but you are giving life to someone like Adelyn," her dad, Matt, said. "We are thankful for the blood donors who are keeping her alive."

"The seven Valley Volkswagen Dealers genuinely believe in giving back to the communities in which we

live and do business," said Lunde's Peoria Volkswagen owner Dennis Lunde, on behalf of the dealerships. "What better way is there than to support United Blood Services in their efforts to make sure there is an adequate blood supply for those in need."

### O-Negative blood

In emergency situations, when there is no time to determine a patient's blood type, doctors depend on O-negative blood to sustain life until the patient can be stabilized.

An ample supply gives transfusion options when shortages of other blood types arise. Doctors also routinely rely on O-negative blood when premature babies and infants under 6 months old require lifesaving transfusions.

**We appreciate the sacrifices made by those serving in the armed forces.**

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