

FCP Visions



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

Spring 2018



Luke Air Force Base is hosting Luke Days 2018, Luke's biennial open house taking place March 17 and 18. This year's show features a number of aerial demonstrations, including the U.S. Marine Corps Harrier Demo team; Tora Tora Tora – Zero's and Bombers; Joint Airfield Assault Demo; A-10 Demo team; U.S Air Force Heritage Flight - F-35A Demo; Red Tail - P-51 Demo; and U.S. Air Force Academy Wings of Blue parachutists. Headlining the event is the Navy's

Blue Angels demo team. Also on the flying menu are several civilian aerial acts and static displays. More than 425,000 spectators and aircraft enthusiasts are expected to attend the two-day event, showcasing not just military might, but also the mission of the 56th Fighter Wing in building the future of airpower.

The event is free and open to the public.

Event officials said for a more robust experience,

MORE EVENT ON 6



U.S.Navy photo

The featured attraction at the Luke Days event is the U.S. Navy Blue Angels demonstration team. The team performs 3:30 both days, March 17 and 18. Gates open 9 a.m. and close 5 p.m.

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From the desk of Fighter Country Partnership: Marching in Fiesta Bowl Parade a hallmark event

At the end of each year, Fighter Country Partnership, members of the Blue Blazer Squadron and Luke airmen all join together one last time before the year ends and a new one begins. Being part of a military support organization, I can think of no better way to finish off the year than at the Fiesta Bowl Parade, where we are waving American flags alongside airmen from Luke Air Force Base.

Fighter Country Partnership is in an enviable position, as we are slated at the front of the parade, carrying a large American flag balloon down the parade route. Thousands of onlookers all stand and cheer as we walk by. It's a really cool experience. The parade is a hallmark event for Fighter Country Partnership's calendar and

COMMENTARY



Bill Johnston
Program Director
Fighter Country Partnership

one that I look forward to each year.

It all starts months earlier, as we start enlisting support from the base, Blue Blazers and their families for the Fiesta Bowl Parade. We began talking around the base to senior leadership about how great last year's parade was and reminded them how well the airmen are received by the Fiesta Bowl staff and the thousands of people lining the

MORE PARADE ON 4



Photo courtesy Fighter Country Partnership

Fighter Country Partnership Blue Blazer Squadron members and Luke Air Force Base airmen hold up the balloon American flag during the Fiesta Bowl Parade.

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 **FCP Visions**
Fighter Country Partnership

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PARADE: Always a great day, From 2

parade route. It seemed as if a few of the senior leaders from the base wouldn't be able to attend and you could see they were truly disappointed because they remembered how awesome it was last year.

I then began the annual ritual of sending out instructions for arrival and parking, and made sure everyone knew where to go, because the start of the Fiesta Bowl parade will not wait for us. We had to be there on time and ready to go.

The airmen all responded to the messages, as you'd think they would; all very professional and excited about the opportunity. The Blue Blazers, although old pros with several Fiesta Bowl parades under their belts, were equally as excited about participating again.

As we all left our homes at various spots across the Valley, we converged on the starting intersection for the parade. It was a chilly start to the day, but I could tell the weather would be better than it was the year prior, when; it rained and was very cold. The skies were blue as the sun rose over Phoenix and hundreds of thousands of people started to make their

way to Central Avenue.

It would not be a true Fiesta Bowl parade without some cool Luke vehicles. The Luke AFB Fire Department and Security Forces both sent vehicles and airmen. Fifty-six airmen from Luke soon arrived and began trying to find some sun to warm up before the parade started. Luke leadership arrived in the form of Col. Michael Richardson and Chief Master Sgt. Randy Kwiatkowski. They thanked the Blue Blazers, their families and the Airmen for all coming out.

As we got closer to the start of the parade, Chief Master Sgt. Richard Pelletier took charge of the airmen. Hundreds of parade volunteers, participants and onlookers stopped what they were doing to watch Pelletier as he yelled commands, forming them into a unit for the parade.

Then came another yell; this time from a Fiesta Bowl coordinator. She directed the Blue Blazers (now manning the American flag balloon) to start walking the parade route. The airmen were right behind us, as were the fire department and security forces vehicles,

with lights flashing and sirens blaring.

As soon as we started, you could hear a rumble coming from behind us. It wasn't another parade vehicle, or even a local high school band. It was a four-ship of F-35s from Luke streaking through the sky to officially start the Fiesta Bowl parade. The clear, blue sky made it look as if I could reach up and touch them; it was unreal.

The American flag balloon isn't the only American flag we take to the Fiesta Bowl parade each year. This year, we took 10,000 small (handheld) American flags to hand out to the thousands of people lining the parade route. Everyone loved them.

The parade was over before it we knew it. Everyone watching was genuinely excited about seeing the airmen and getting a chance to get a small memento from them. They cheered all along the parade route. The picture shows the group of airmen at the end with the Blue Blazers and Fighter Country Partnership directors, before we had to deflate our balloon. It was a great day. I'm already looking forward to the next parade.



Parking information

Parking: During the 2018 Luke Days Open House, the 56th Security Forces Squadron and its law enforcement partners would like to minimize traffic congestion and provide spectators and Luke personnel quick access to the base and parking areas.

Parking Lots A and B will both have a \$10 parking fee (cash only) for cars.

The following information will help individuals plan their travel to the base and guide to one of three parking areas:

1. Park & Walk (Lot A: Litchfield Road and Glendale Avenue)
2. Park & Ride (Lot B: Litchfield Road and Olive Avenue)
3. Handicapped: on base via the North Gate

People parking in Parking Lot B will be shuttled to and from the base, while Parking Lot A will be a park and walk lot only.

Gates open 9 a.m. Gates close at 5 p.m.

For updates, visit <https://www.facebook.com/luke56thFW/>.



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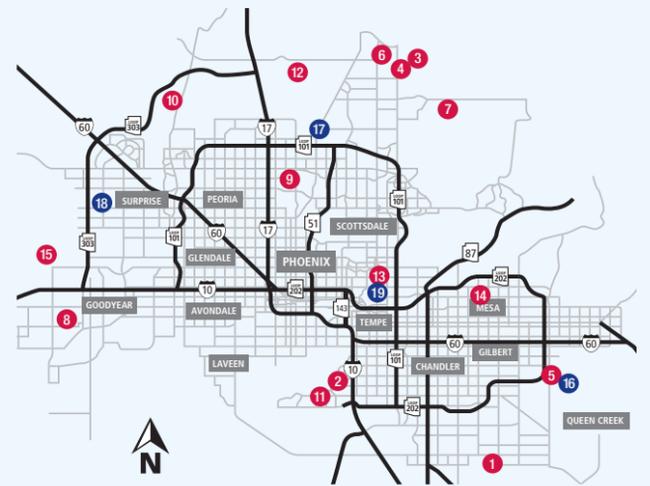
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EVENT: Air demonstrations, static displays and lots of activities for kids, From 1

attendees can upgrade to VIP tickets with the information below. VIP tickets, which include tent, table, chairs, private restrooms, food, drink throughout the day, and parking pass, are typically available to purchase in advance online.

For more information, visit www.airshowusa.com/tickets, or call 1-800-514-3849.

Performers

(in order of performance)

Gary Rower - Stearman
Desert Rats - CJ-6
Bob Freeman - Extra 330
U.S. Marine Corps Harrier Demo
Tora Tora Tora - Zeros and Bombers
Buck Roetman - Pitts
Dan Buchanan - Glider
Joint Airfield Assault Demo
Brad Wursten - MXS-R
ACC A-10 Demo
U.S. Air Force Heritage Flight -
F-35A
Red Tail - P-51
Bill Stein - Edge 540
US Air Force Academy
Wings of Blue
Greg Coyler - T-33
Kirby Chambliss - Extra 540
John Klatt Air Shows
U.S. Navy Blue Angels

STEAM City

STEAM City is featured for the first time at Luke Days with more than 50 interactive science, technology, engineering, art and math activities for all ages.



Photo courtesy Commemorative Air Force

Tora! Tora! Tora! reconstructs the battle fought during World War II in the Pacific.

What to take

- Sunscreen
 - Plastic beverage bottles with factory seal intact (baby bottles exempt)
 - Reusable water bottle (empty for security line, free water stations are available inside)
 - Hearing protection (especially for children)
 - Wagon or lightweight stroller for tired children
 - Stadium chair or cushion for free bleacher seating (collapsible camping chairs are OK, but subject to search)
- Food, beverages, and souvenirs will be available for purchase at the event.

Prohibited items

- Take note of prohibited items while planning your day at Luke Days. Banned items will be confiscated and/or cause visitors to be turned away at the gate.
- Weapons of any kind including pocket knives, pocket tools, scissors, box cutters, billy clubs, large heavy chain link jewelry or belts, mace and pepper spray
 - Firearms of any type
 - Toys that resemble firearms, laser pointers
 - RC aircraft and drones
 - Flammable items and fireworks
 - Pets (except for service animals)
 - Spray paint and silly string
 - Outside food, coolers, grills or glass containers
 - Glass bottles
 - Liquid without factory seal intact (baby bottles are exempt)

- Walkie-talkies, HAM radios, scanners
 - Alcohol and illegal drugs
 - Bicycles, skateboards, scooters, heeies, roller skates or roller blades
 - Excessively large items and bags (the only exceptions are diaper bags, small purses, and small camera bags at or below 21 inches long, 10 inches wide and 10 inches deep)
- Possession and use of marijuana is illegal on Luke Air Force Base, or any federal installation.
- All visitors are subject to search by security forces.

Military static displays

AH-64
A-10 Thunderbolt II
B-1B Lancer
C-130J Super Hercules
C-17
C-5
F-15C
F-15E
F-16 (69 FS)
F-16 (AZ ANG)
F-22
F-35 (Japan)
KC-135 (AZ ANG)
KC-46
OA-X (Light attack Winner)
T-38
UAV Display
UH-60
UH-72

Civilian static displays

Cessna 182 - Civil Air Patrol
Cessna 206 - Civil Air Patrol



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B-1B Lancer on display at Luke Days 2018

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Luke Air Force Base will host the Luke Days 2018 airshow March 17 and 18. Luke Days marks Luke's 77th year of operation since its founding in 1941, and the show will be headlined by the U.S. Navy Blue Angels aerial demonstration team for the first time since 1992.

People can see the B-1B Lancer in person at Luke Days 2018.

B-1B Lancer background

The B-1A was initially developed in the 1970s as a replacement for the B-52. Four prototypes of the long-range, high speed (Mach 2.2) strategic bomber were developed and tested in the mid-1970s, but the program was canceled in 1977 before going into production. Flight testing continued through 1981.

The B-1B is an improved variant initiated by the Reagan administration in 1981. Major changes included



U.S. Air Force illustration

A B-1B Lancer flies a combat patrol over Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The B-1B has the capability to carry guided and unguided weapons and deliver massive quantities of precision and non-precision weapons against specific targets.

an additional structure to increase payload by 74,000 pounds, an improved radar and reduction of the radar cross section by an order of magnitude. The inlet was extensively modified as part of the RCS reduction, necessitating a reduction in maximum speed to Mach 1.2.

The first production B-1 flew in October 1984, and the first B-1B was delivered to Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, in June 1985. Initial operational capability was

achieved on Oct. 1, 1986. The final B-1B was delivered May 2, 1988.

The United States eliminated the nuclear mission for the B-1 in 1994. Even though the Air Force expended no further funding to maintain nuclear capabilities, the B-1 was still considered a heavy bomber equipped for nuclear armament until 2007. The conversion to conventional only began in November 2007 under the original START treaty and was completed in

March 2011 under the New START treaty. To make that conversion possible, two steps were taken:

During the first step a metal cylindrical sleeve was welded into the aft attachment point of each set of B-1 pylon attachments. This prevented installing B-1 Air Launched Cruise Missile pylons.

During the second step, two nuclear armament-unique cable connectors in each of the B-1 weapons bays were removed.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Rebeca M. Lugin

A B-1B Lancer performs a low-level fly-by for troops deployed for Operation Enduring Freedom Oct. 27. The B-1B's three internal weapons bays can accommodate up to 84 MK-82 general purpose bombs or MK-62 naval mines, 30 CBU-87/89 cluster munitions or CBU-97 Sensor Fused Weapons.

That prevented the pre-arm signal from reaching the weapons.

The B-1B holds almost 50 world records for speed, payload, range and time of climb in its class. The National Aeronautic Association recognized the B-1B for completing one of the 10 most memorable record flights for 1994. The most recent records were made official in 2004.

The B-1B was first used in combat in support of operations against Iraq during Operation Desert Fox in December 1998.

In 1999, six B-1s were used in Operation Allied Force, delivering more than

20 percent of the total ordnance while flying less than 2 percent of the combat sorties.

During the first six months of Operation Enduring Freedom, eight B-1s dropped nearly 40 percent of the total tonnage delivered by coalition air forces. That included nearly 3,900 Joint Direct Attack Munitions, or 67 percent of the total. In Operation Iraqi Freedom, the aircraft flew less than 1 percent of the combat missions while delivering 43 percent of the JDAMs used. The B-1 continues to be deployed today, flying missions daily in support of continuing operations.



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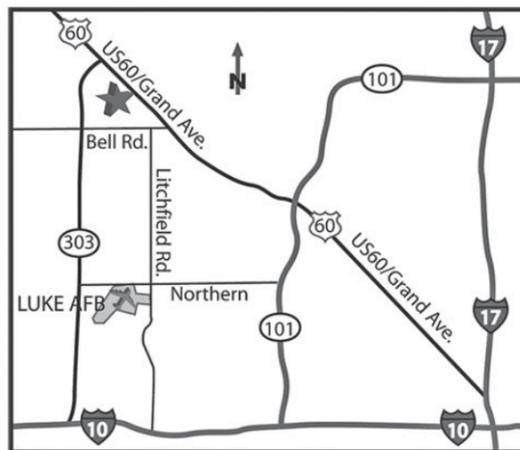


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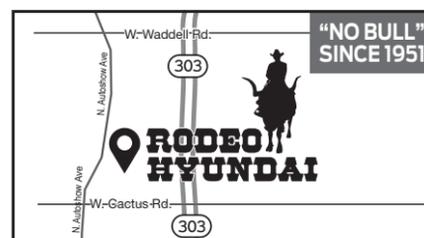
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Wings of Blue Demonstration Team on its way to Luke Days 2018

Each year, the Wings of Blue Demonstration Team performs at more than 50 special events in front of more than two million spectators. Demonstration venues include airshows, NFL and college football games and special events across the nation and around the world. The Wings of Blue has demonstrated its intricate aerial skills at major venues such as the BCS National Championship Game, the Orange Bowl, the Rose Bowl, the Fiesta Bowl, the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl, NFL Monday Night Football games, NASCAR races, civilian airshows and Department of Defense open houses.

Wings of Blue demonstrators strive for excellence at each performance, both in the air and on the ground. The Wings of Blue demonstrators represent the United States Air Force and the Air Force Academy. They represent more than 200,000 active duty airmen serving around the world.

The demonstration team also takes the time to impact each community it visits throughout the show season, not only at the demonstration site but also through hospital and school visits, hoping to share its mission and inspire all it meets to



U.S. Air Force photo by Michel Anciaux

The Wings of Blue Demonstration Team takes its flying show to Luke Days 2018.

strive for noble goals. To find out where you can catch the Wings of Blue in 2018, check out the demonstration calendar.

Wings of Blue demonstrations are tailored based on the show site the team is jumping into. Jumpers in the demo can vary from four to 14 and can jump from altitudes varying from 2,500 feet to 15,000 feet above the ground.

Demonstration jumpers typically wear smoke grenades to add to the visibility for the crowd on the ground. Jumpers also can carry any type of flag or multiple flags with a flag drop down system.

Additionally, jumpers fly streamers, carry game balls or other valuable objects, and also fly a massive 800-square-foot American flag.

Popular demo maneuvers include the Wings of Blue bomb-burst, in which jumpers use their flying skills to join in formation in the sky. Upon command from the lead jumper, each skydiver performs a 180-degree turn and tracks in separate directions of the flight line, creating a burst effect.

Upon deploying their canopies, the jumpers set up canopy

“stacks” and land in succession on the target area. Demonstrators also sometimes perform Canopy Relative Work (CRW) in which they join their parachutes together and fly as one. Each demonstration is complemented with a special soundtrack and narration for full crowd engagement.

Upon landing, demonstrators move immediately to the crowd, where they will sign autographs, take pictures and answer questions. The jumpers then pack their parachutes in the crowd with crowd assistance.

Each member of the Wings of Blue Demonstration team is highly qualified in the many disciplines required for demonstrations.

They are also hand selected based on their abilities to represent the Air Force and the Armed Forces as well as communicate and speak to the public. Team members receive abundant training on free-fall and canopy flying, smoke systems, flag systems and formation flying maneuvers.

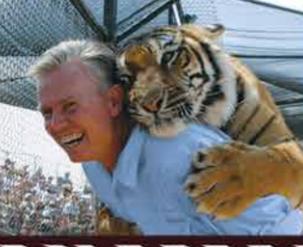
Additionally, Wings of Blue members train rigorously to accurately land on target at the show venue, as well as obtaining many practice jumps into football stadiums to prepare for major sporting events.

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ROC#308272

WHY YOU SHOULD INVEST IN SECURITY LOCKING MAILBOXES

Every day, more and more people fall victims to identity theft.

With so much personal information readily available both online and offline, it's easier than ever.

Have you ever considered that your mailbox may be frequently visited by people other than your mailman?

Identity thieves looking for valuable personal information regularly check unlocked mailboxes to steal your bank and utility bills.

They'll grab hold of anything that'll give them access to your personal data. So if you've been missing some of your mail lately, it's time to investigate into the matter.

The best way to prevent this is to get a security locking mailbox. They're a little more expensive than regular mailboxes, but you get a peace of mind and mail safety. So read on to discover why you should invest in locking mailboxes and how to find the right one for you.

Preventing Identity Theft

Identity theft is considered one of the fastest-growing crimes in the USA. In fact, over 9.9 million Americans have been victims of ID thefts, and have suffered huge financial losses.

A lot of these crimes take place online, when people enter sensitive personal information on various websites. Offline, thieves go around neighborhoods and vandalize residential mailboxes to steal the mail.

At first, you may not notice some of your mail is missing. But if your utility bills stop coming in or you stop receiving packages, you should start to worry.

Getting a locking mailbox is a perfect solution to this problem. Not only will you have complete control over your mail, but you'll also deter the thieves. Picking the locks on these mailboxes is very hard. Most potential thieves will give up before they even try.

But not all locking mailboxes are made equal. Below, you'll discover how to choose the best one for your type of mail.

How to Pick the Right Locking Mailbox for You

Before you buy a new mailbox, consider the type and size of the mail you receive. For example, if you mainly receive envelopes or magazines, you'll need a standard-sized mailbox.

If you receive packages or lots of mail, you may need a more spacious mailbox. Look for one that can hold several days' or weeks' worth of mail.

Although you're the only person who'll have the keys to your mailbox, the mailman will still be able to deliver your mail through the incoming mail slot. This is why locking mailboxes are safer than regular ones.

Whatever model you choose, make sure it complies with the USPS mailbox regulations.

Bottom Line

More and more people are choosing to install locking mailboxes in lieu of unlocked ones.

If you want to protect your personal information from curious eyes and thieves, invest in a high-quality locking mailbox.

Stagecoach Locksmiths offer a large variety of quality pedestal, wall mount and column type mailboxes to fit your needs and budget. If you have additional questions or would like to purchase a secure mailbox, please stop by our showroom at 3942 E. Campbell Ave, Phoenix AZ 85018.

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ROC#308272

Luke AFB earns Hero award from United Blood Services

The efforts of Luke Air Force Base were applauded in February at Valentines for Life, United Blood Services' premier annual awards event. Base blood drive coordinators, Capt. Ivette Caro (right) and Master Sgt. Morgan Iorio, were presented with the coveted Hero Award, an honor that is reached by less than 2 percent of all blood drive coordinators across Arizona. Hero Award winners provide the largest impact on the blood supply by organizing committees to recruit

donors, holding internal recognition programs to thank donors and by hosting blood drives during the most difficult periods of the year to maintain Arizona's blood supply.

Luke Air Force Base has hosted drives with United Blood Services since the 1950s and has earned the Hero Award 13 of the 14 years since its inception.

Last year, Luke Air Force Base hosted 60 blood drives resulting in 813 donations – increasing by 14 percent over 2016 and providing



Photo courtesy United Blood Services

Since she was just 6 weeks old, Mia McPoland (front center red dress) has relied on the generosity of more than 200 blood donors. In honor of United Blood Services' 75th anniversary, 33 of her blood donors are gathered Feb. 16 at Valentines for Life in a surprise meeting with Mia.



Capt. Ivette Caro (second from left) and Master Sgt. Morgan Iorio were among the top 2 percent of award-winning blood drive coordinators recently honored by United Blood Services, earning a Hero Award for providing the largest impact on the blood supply. Of the 1,470 organizations that sponsored blood drives last year, Luke Air Force Base was among the top 44 organizations across Arizona that qualified for the Hero Award. Congratulating them on their accomplishments are UBS Southwest Division President Tom Choi (left) and Phoenix Suns Broadcaster Tom Leander (right).

one and one-half-day blood supply for all 62 Arizona hospitals that depend upon United Blood Services.

The cornerstone of success for the Luke blood program has been the engagement of almost every squadron to get involved. Each squadron competes during the year to earn the title of "Red Baron."

"Capt. Caro and Master Sgt. Morgan do an excellent job of managing the program and ensuring that the best practices are used at every blood drive," said Sid Lewis, senior director of donor recruitment for United Blood Services'

Southwest Division. "We are extremely proud and grateful for their devotion to the blood program and for Luke's overall services to our country."

Luke Air Force Base blood donors help teens, such as 15-year-old Mia McPoland of Chandler, who shared her story with honored guests at Valentines for Life. She was born with Diamond Blackfan Anemia, a rare disorder that prevents her body from producing red blood cells.

Every month, Mia requires lifesaving blood transfusions – a need that

is expected to continue her entire life.

Since she was just 6 weeks old, Mia has relied on the generosity of more than 200 blood donors. In honor of United Blood Services' 75th anniversary, 33 of her blood donors gathered Feb. 16 at Valentines for Life in a surprise meeting with Mia.

Luke Air Force Base hosts blood drives regularly throughout the year for donors with base access. To make an appointment at an upcoming base drive, visit www.BloodHero.com (Sponsor Code: LAFB) or call 1-877-UBS-HERO (827-4376).

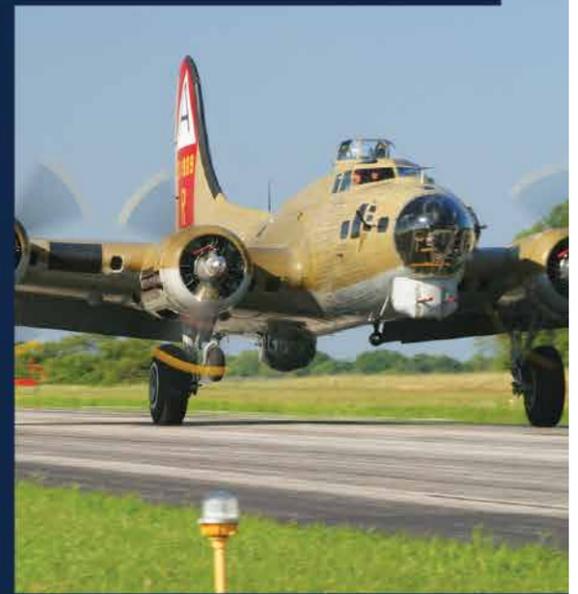
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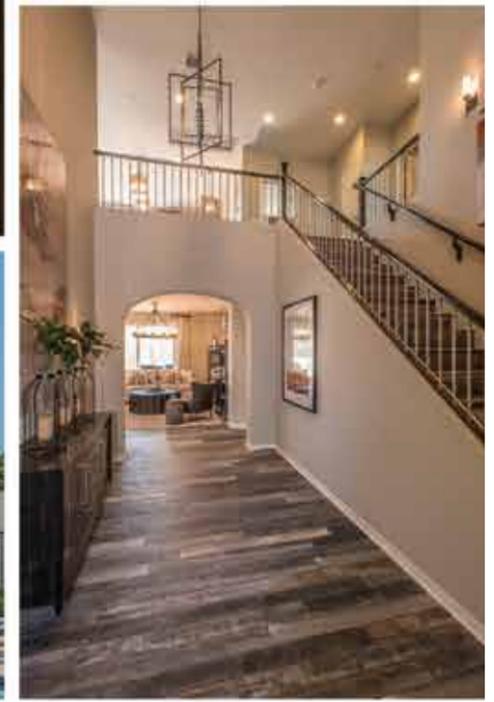
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Luke AFB honors its own at annual banquet



Senior Airman Timothy Orr, 944th Operations Group aviation resource manager, sings the national anthem during the 2017 Annual Awards Banquet Jan. 20 at The Wigwam in Litchfield Park. The banquet was held to recognize and award the top performing airmen from Luke Air Force Base.



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Alexander Cook

David Bialy, 56th Communications Squadron communications security manager, receives the Category III Non-Supervisory Award Jan. 20 from Brig. Gen. Brook Leonard, 56th Fighter Wing commander and Chief Master Sgt. Randy Kwiatkowski, 56th FW command chief, at the 2017 Annual Awards Banquet.



Senior Airman Richard Schultz, 61st Aircraft Maintenance Unit F-35 integrated avionics journeyman, receives the Guardsman of the Year Award from Brig. Gen. Brook Leonard, 56th Fighter Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Randy Kwiatkowski, 56th FW command chief, at the 2017 Annual Awards Banquet.

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Scott Dearduff, former 9th Air Force Command Chief, provides the keynote speech during the annual awards banquet. During his speech, Dearduff spoke about what it means to have a warrior spirit.



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ROC# 51293

37th Annual Luke Shoot Out Golf Tournament

Proceeds benefit Glendale Chamber Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

The 37th Annual Luke Shoot Out golf tournament, sponsored by Glendale Chamber of Commerce, will be held 6:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. April 6 at Falcon Dunes Golf Course, 15100 W. Northern Ave.

Check-in starts 6:30 a.m., with a shotgun start 7:30 a.m. Single golfers can register for \$120 each, or sponsor a veteran for \$85. Tee hole sponsorships are also available for \$185 and include company signage on the golf course, ability to put promotional items in the golfer's goodie bags and the chance to represent your company on the course to connect directly with more than 100 golfers.

Additional sponsorships are available. Registration is available online at www.glendale-azchamber.org, or by calling 623-937-4754.

Tournament features and details

- Four-person scramble
- Four hole-in-one prizes
- Four closest-to-the-pin contests
- Putting contest
- 7:30 a.m. - Shotgun start

Registration fee includes:

- Green fees
- Golf cart
- Goodie bag
- After-tournament lunch



Photos courtesy Glendale Chamber of Commerce

Glendale Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee

Fees

- Single golfer - \$120
- Sponsor a veteran - \$85
- Hole sponsor - \$185
- Foursome plus hole sponsor - \$615 (saves \$50 - best value)
- Foursome - \$480
- Additional guest for luncheon - \$40

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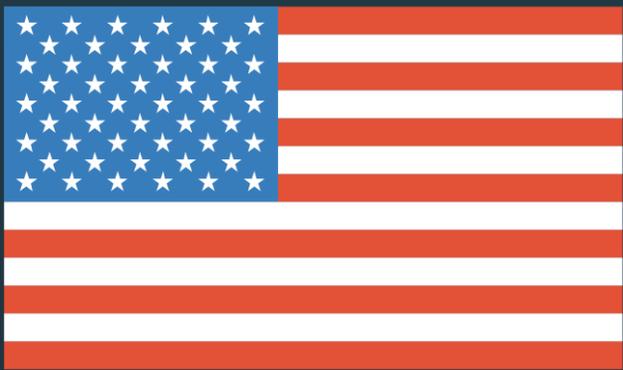
- Company recognition on the handout to all golfers and volunteers
- Company signage on the golf course
- Four-some in the golf tournament
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- Recognition at awards luncheon

cheon

- Company representative to speak 2-3 minutes at event
 - Ability to put promotional items in the golfers' goodie bags
 - Investment \$2,500
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Golfers tee off recently Falcon Dunes Golf Course, the site of the 37th Annual Luke Shoot Out golf tournament.



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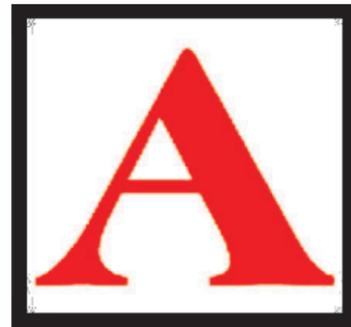
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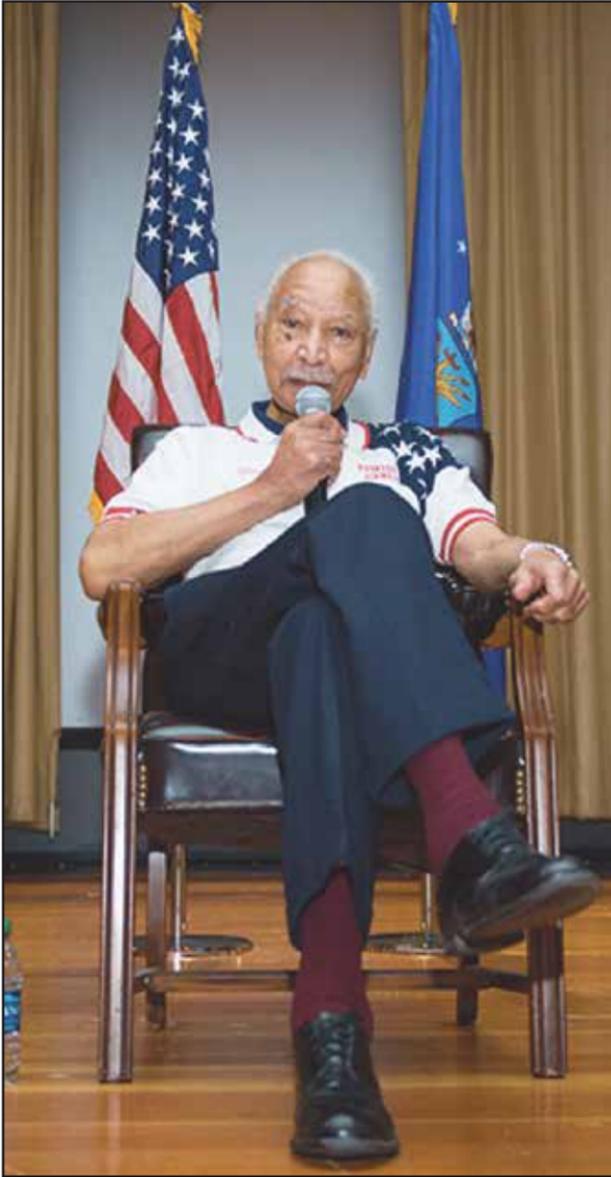


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Luke Air Force Base hosts airman, honors Black History Month



Retired Lt. Col. Robert Ashby, Tuskegee Airman, speaks to Thunderbolts during the 2018 Tuskegee Airmen Honor Event Feb. 15 at Luke Air Force Base. During the event, Ashby spoke about the significant contributions and achievements made by the Tuskegee Airmen that helped shape aviation history.

Right, Col. Michael Richardson, 56th Fighter Wing vice commander, shakes hands with retired Lt. Col. Robert Ashby, Tuskegee Airman, during the 2018 Tuskegee Airmen Honor Event Feb. 15 at Luke Air Force Base. Following the event, airmen participated in a meet-and-greet with Ashby to thank him for the contributions made to the Air Force throughout his career.



Air Force photographs by Airman 1st Class Alexander Cook. Left, retired Lt. Col. Robert Ashby, Tuskegee Airman, autographs a toy model P-47 Thunderbolt Feb. 15 during the 2018 Tuskegee Airmen Honor Event at Luke Air Force Base. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first black military aviators in the U.S. Army Air Corps who performed more than 15,000 combat sorties, including 200 escort missions, earning them more than 850 service medals.



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Air War College international students visit Luke

BY TECH. SGT. LUTHER MITCHELL JR.
56TH FIGHTER WING, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Air Force Air War College International Fellows students visited Luke Air Force Base Tuesday to gain a better understanding of U.S. military operations and see how Luke is building the future of airpower.

The students spent the day at the Air Training Center learning about the F-35 Lightning II before visiting the 63rd Fighter Squadron to see the aircraft.

“This is the capstone for international officers at the U.S. AWC Regional and Cultural Studies program,” said Navy Capt. Quinn Skinner, U.S. Air Force AWC instructor. “Students spend a year at the U.S. AWC studying other cultures as part of the curriculum, and we bring in students to study U.S. history, economics and political and military culture.”

The AWC Regional and Cultural Studies program is designed to broaden the educational and cultural experience of AWC international students and strengthen U.S. Air Force international relationships.

“One of the big objectives of the program, other than educating students about the U.S. and its military policy, is also relationship building,” Skinner said. “These students are the best their country’s air forces have to offer, and a large percentage of them will go on to become chiefs of staff of their air forces and in some cases, ministers of defense. Having those relationships built on a personal level and having them experience the fabric of the United States is a big part of that.”

This year, students visited St. Louis, Phoenix, Tucson and Honolulu touring various government, cultural and military venues such as Luke.

“This helps them get a good picture of what the U.S. is all about, and with this visit at Luke, some of the innovation the United States brings,” Skinner said.

Skinner said he is grateful Luke was able to help the U.S. AWC accomplish its mission and show the international students how airmen at Luke are building the future of airpower.



U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Luther Mitchell Jr.



(Above) U.S. Air Force Air War College International Fellows students receive a briefing on the F-35 Lightning II Feb. 28 at the 63rd Fighter Squadron at Luke Air Force Base. (Left) AWC students receive electronically mediated training on the F-35 Lightning II the same day at Luke’s F-35 Academic Training Center. The AWC curriculum is designed to expose students to U.S. military operations, training, organization, equipment and facilities.



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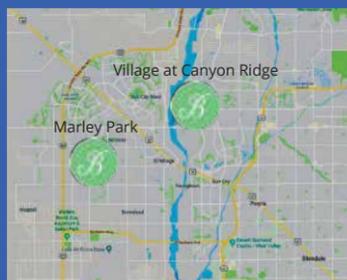






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Luke Air Force Base commemorates women

By SENIOR AIRMAN PEDRO MOTA
56TH FIGHTER WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Women's History Month honors the contributions women have made throughout history. Since 1981, the U.S. has taken time to celebrate every March.

This year, the Women's History Month committee at Luke Air Force Base scheduled an array of events throughout March to show admiration for these heroines' role in history, past and present.

"This year, we wanted to do something a little different," said Tech. Sgt. Sindy Nazon, 56th Force Support Squadron fitness specialist. "While we are recognizing the inspirational figures in history, we are also shedding some light on five civilian women stationed at various squadrons who have been working at Luke for 20 to 30 years. Those ladies are essentially our living history and continue to contribute to the mission. For that, we would like to recognize them during Women's History Month."

These women were hon-



ored in the first week of March during a breakfast at Club Five-Six with a mentoring session and a poem reading on phenomenal women, followed by a surprise guest speaker.

"The breakfast is the starting event in the month-long celebration," Nazon said. "Letting Thunderbolts know of the

decades of heroism, life and wisdom of past and present strong female figures."

Additional information is being placed throughout the base during the second week of March with a mentoring luncheon session on the third week of March to continue educating Thunderbolts.

At the mentoring luncheon

March 14, women were set to share their stories and experiences celebrating life at the dining facility with airmen.

Finally, Women's History Month will culminate with an event scheduled to brighten and encourage the young minds at Luke Elementary School, ensuring the effort and

strength of those past and present is retained and passed on.

"Without events like these, it would be difficult to sit down, talk, question and hear the encouraging stories these women possess," said Staff Sgt. Kristina Permont, 63rd Fighter Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of aviation resource management.



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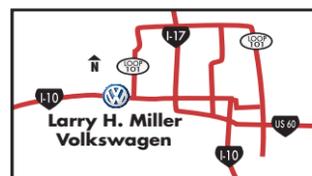
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The museum is a top-rated Trip Advisor Phoenix attraction with 55,000 square feet of airplanes, relics, educational exhibits and a working mechanics' hangar.

It stands apart from other flying museums because it encourages the public to get up close and personal with history. People can watch skilled mechanics change out engines and join them on the hangar ramp to watch propeller engines grumbling to life in a billow of

smoke.

The museum's mission is to preserve airplanes that have served throughout combat aviation history, educate others about the pivotal moments in world history, and remember the heroic sacrifices of our veterans.

Knowledgeable docents are available to guide visitors through the educational exhibits or guests may explore unguided.

Almost all the members have a connection with war history and if visitors may brush shoulders with a former World War II bomber pilot, Tuskegee Airman, or WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots).

People can shop for unique gifts in the museum store that features military aviation-related art, posters, books, T-shirts, caps, bomber jackets, toys and collectibles.

New memorabilia arrives regularly, so people are encouraged to often or shop online at www.azcaf.org/shop.



Photo courtesy Arizona Commemorative Air Force Museum

The hangar at Arizona Commemorative Air Force Museum displays vintage aircraft. Visitors to the museum are able to walk around the area and get up close and personal with history.

Bomber jackets are even available for one's pooch (and children).

Visitors can also purchase museum admission tickets and rides online. Rides occur from the fall

to the spring and seats fill up well in advance. The ultra-rare B-17 and B-25 bombers, along with the C-47 Combat Legend, depart in the summer to travel to more than 50 cities across the U.S. and Canada. Peo-

ple of all ages step outside and post their "Bomber Eye to the Sky" reports on social media as the planes arrive in their cities.

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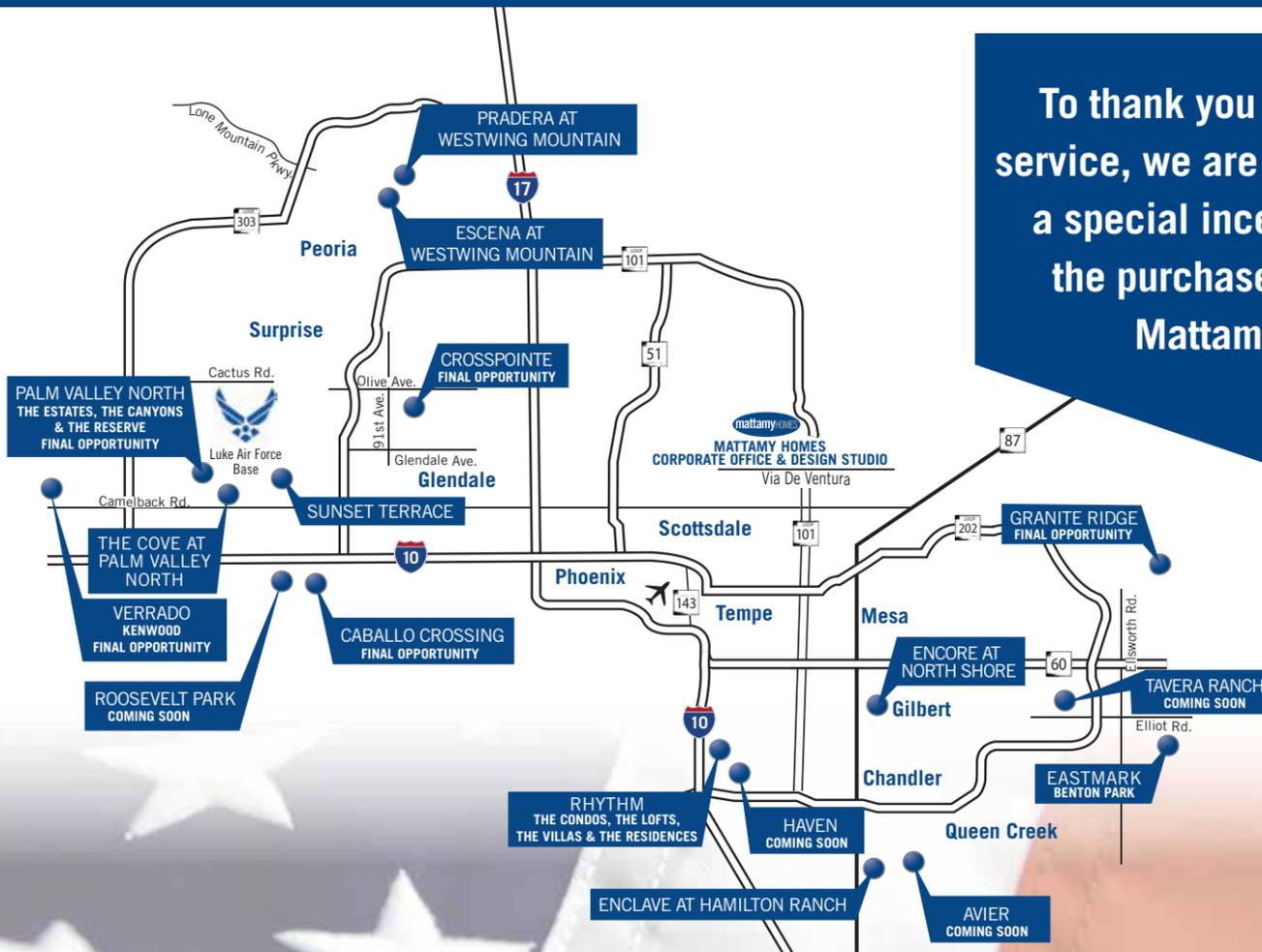
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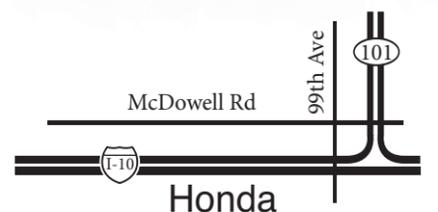
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Submitted photo

Lt. Frank Luke Jr. stands in front of his plane circa 1918.

Luke history explained

Air Force Base opened in 1941 as Luke Field

Luke Air Force Base was named after 2nd Lt. Frank Luke Jr. (1897-1918). Luke is a posthumous Medal of Honor recipient and the No. 2 United States ace in World War I.

Born in Phoenix, the “Arizona Balloon Buster” scored 18 aerial victories during World War I (14 of those were German observation balloons) in the skies over France. Luke was shot down Sept. 29, 1918, at Murvaux between Verdun and Stenay, France, after he had destroyed three enemy balloons. Surviving the crash of his Spad, Luke drew two pistols and fired on German soldiers, killing several of them before he was killed.



Submitted photo

A flight of three F-84Cs from the 3600th Flying Training Wing fly over the Arizona desert circa 1946.

The 6th Aero Squadron on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was previously renamed Luke Field in his honor.

In 1940, the U.S. Army sent a representative to Arizona to choose a site for an Army Air Corps training field for advanced training in conventional fighter aircraft. The city of Phoenix bought 1,440 acres of land, which it leased to the government at \$1 a year effective March 24, 1941. On March 29, 1941, the Del. E. Webb Construction Co. began excavation for the first building at what was known then as Litchfield Park Air Base. Luke Field in Pearl Harbor released its name so the Arizona base could be called Luke Field. Advanced flight training in the AT-6 began at Luke in June that same year. The first class of 45 students, Class 41 F, arrived June 6, 1941, to begin advanced flight training in the AT-6,

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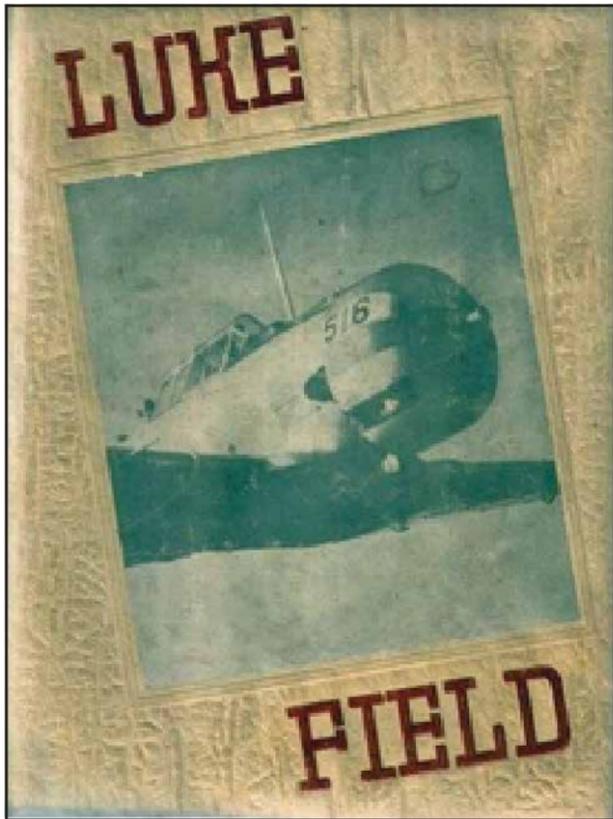
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Submitted photo

The Luke Field class book of 1943 was issued to student pilots at the West Valley base. Luke Field, now Luke Air Force Base, opened in 1941 to 45 students.

LUKE: Air Force Base's history explained, From 32

although only a few essential buildings had been completed. Flying out of Sky Harbor Airport until the Luke runways were ready, pilots received 10 weeks of instruction and the first class graduated Aug. 15, 1941. Then-Capt. Barry Goldwater served as director of ground training the following year.

During World War II, Luke Field was the largest fighter training base in the Army Air Forces, graduating more than 12,000 fighter pilots from advanced and operational courses earning the nickname "Home of the Fighter Pilot."

The base was under the control of the 37th Flying Training Wing (advanced single-engine), Western Flying Training Command, AAF Flying Training Command. During the years of World War II, more than 17,000 pilots trained at Luke Field, making it the largest single-engine advanced flying training school in the U.S. More than a million hours of flying were logged, primarily in the AT-6 Texan, along with some transitioning to P-40 Warhawk fighters, and later, the P-51 Mustang and P-47 Thunderbolt.

Although continually modified during the war years, the course of advanced flight training at Luke averaged about 10 weeks and included both flight training and ground school. Approximately 60 hours of flying instruction covered formation flying, navigation and instrument flying, as well as a bit of aerial acrobatics. About 20 additional hours of flight practice concentrated on aerial and gunnery training.

Ground school, or classroom training for the advanced flying course, varied from about 100 to 130 hours and was intermingled with flight time in the aircraft. Cadets flew in the morning and attended ground school in the afternoons, or flew training missions in the afternoon, after a morning of ground school. At the peak of the training program at Luke, some students were required to attend night classes. Ground school included instruction in navigation, flight planning, radio equipment, maintenance and weather.

By Feb. 7, 1944, pilots at Luke had achieved a million hours of flying time. A World War II film, A Guy Named Joe, included some footage filmed at Luke. By 1946, however, the number of pilots trained dropped to 299 and the base was deactivated Nov. 30 that year.

Soon after combat developed in Korea, Luke Field was reactivated Feb. 1, 1951, as Luke Air Force Base, part of Air Training Command under the reorganized U.S. Air Force.

Honor Flight Arizona begins spring 2018 flying season

Honor Flight Arizona will begin its spring 2018 flying season March 12 from Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. Remaining honor flights will occur on the following dates:

- March 19 to 21
- April 10 to 12
- April 24 to 26
- May 8 to 10

Honor Flight Arizona took its first step flying 11 World War II veterans in November 2009, the first honor flight west of the Mississippi. The three-day journey was without much fanfare, but became a trip of honor and remembrance.

Since that date, Honor Flight Arizona has flown nearly 1,700 World War II veterans, almost 200

Korean War veterans, more than 1,300 guardians, and amassed a volunteer base of nearly 150 active volunteers. Honor Flight Arizona presently has a waiting list for Vietnam veterans and hopes to begin flying them by 2020.

Southwest Airlines is one of its major sponsors. Southwest employees are at the airport – sometimes as early as 5 a.m. – to greet the veterans and get them checked in, event organizers said.

The public is also there, cheering on the veterans, organizers said, noting the many handshakes, hugs, kisses, and "Thank you for your service" comments along the way.

To learn more, visit www.honorflightaz.org.

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Wings of Freedom tour lands April 9 at Phoenix Goodyear Airport

Participating in the Collings Foundation's Wings of Freedom tour, B-17 Flying Fortress "Nine O Nine," B-24 Liberator "Whitchcraft," B-25 Mitchell "Tondelayo" bombers and P-51 Mustang "Toulouse Nuts" fighter, will fly into Phoenix Goodyear Airport for a visit April 9 to 11.



Photo courtesy Wings of Freedom

The P-51 "Toulouse Nuts" fighter will be part of the Wings of Freedom event April 9 to 11 in Goodyear.

Attendees can visit, explore, and learn more about these unique and rare treasures of World War II aviation history. The B-17 is one of only eight in flying condition in the United States. Tour organizers said the B-24J Liberator is the sole remaining example of its type flying in the world.

The B-25 is best known for being used in the daring Doolittle raid, and the P-51 "Toulouse Nuts" fighter recently received the Oshkosh Grand Champion Award for restoration. Visitors are invited to explore the aircraft inside and out; \$15 for adults and \$5 for children younger than 12 is requested for access to up-close viewing and tours through the inside of the aircraft. Discounted rates

are available for school groups.

Visitors may also experience the opportunity to take a 30-minute flight aboard the rare aircraft. Flights on either the B-17 or B-24 are \$450 per person. Visitors can get some "stick time" in the world's greatest fighter. P-51 flight training is \$2,200 for a half hour and \$3,200 for a full hour. B-25 flights are \$400 per person. For reservations and information on flight experiences, call 800-568-8924.

The Wings of Freedom Tour will be on display at Phoenix Goodyear Airport at LUX Air, 1658 S. Litch-

field Road.

The tour will arrive at noon April 9 at Goodyear Airport and be on display until the aircraft depart after 5 p.m. operations April 11. Hours of ground tours and displays are: noon to 5 p.m. April 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 10 and 10 a.m. to noon April 11. The 30-minute flight experiences are normally scheduled before and after the ground tour times.

The Collings Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational foundation devoted to organizing "living history" events that allow people to learn more about their heritage

and history through direct participation. The nationwide Wings of Freedom tour is celebrating its 29th year and visits an average of 110 cities in more than 37 states annually. Since its start, tens of millions of people have seen the B-17, B-24, B-25 & P-51 display at locations everywhere. The Wings of Freedom tour is one of the most extraordinary and unique interactive traveling historical displays of its kind.

The Wings of Freedom tour travels the nation as a flying tribute to the flight crews who flew planes, the ground crews who maintained them, the workers who built them, the soldiers, sailors and airmen they helped protect, and the citizens and families that share the freedom that they helped preserve. The B-17, B-24 and B-25 were the backbone of the American effort during the war from 1942 to 1945 and were famous for their ability to sustain damage and still accomplish the mission.

Despite the risks of anti-aircraft fire, attack-

ing enemy fighters and the harrowing environment of sub-zero temperatures, many B-17s, B-25s and B-24s safely brought their crews home. The P-51 Mustang was affectionately known as the bomber's "Little Friend" – saving countless crews from attacking axis fighters.

After the war, many aircraft were scrapped for their raw aluminum to rebuild a nation in post-war prosperity and, therefore, very few were spared. The rarity of the B-17, B-25, B-24 and P-51 - and their importance to telling the story of World War II - is why the Collings

Foundation continues to fly and display the aircraft nationwide.

At each location, local veterans and their families are encouraged to visit and share their experiences and stories with the public.

For aviation enthusiasts, the tour provides an opportunity for the museum to go to the visitor and not the other way around. Visitors can find out more by visiting the website www.collingsfoundation.org.

For more information, e-mail Hunter Chaney, director of marketing, at hchaney@collingsfoundation.org, or call 800-568-8924.



Wings of Freedom tour organizers said the B-24J Liberator "Whitchcraft" is the sole remaining example of its type flying in the world.

The City of Peoria is a champion of Luke Air Force Base and works hard to protect the Base to ensure their mission's viability for years to come.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO

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Arizona State program aims to narrow military-civilian gap

18-credit hour certification to prepare students for wide range of service careers

By **JERRY GONZALEZ**
MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICER
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

A first-of-its-kind 18-credit program aimed at narrowing the military-civilian gap by educating students about American veterans is expected to launch during the upcoming fall semester at Arizona State University, officials said.

Enrollment started March 1 for "Veterans, Society and Service," ASU's first undergraduate certificate dedicated solely to the study of veterans, military culture and how they relate to society.

"The media is flooded with representations of veterans, as either homeless 'head cases,' or as heroes who are placed on a pedestal," Mark von Hagen, history professor and the director of ASU's Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement, said. "Both are shallow binary portrayals, rendering society unable to make space for conversation.

"Thank you for your service" is a cheap, throwaway line, but it's really not enough," von Hagen said. "It's a meaningless gesture unless you follow it up with something more significant."

Von Hagen and a group of ASU professors are proposing something very significant with the new certificate, he said. The program takes an interdisciplinary approach on new core tensions and deep-rooted issues regarding how the wider culture understands and supports today's all-volunteer, post Sept. 11 military force to develop new bonds and understandings.

The OVMAE proposed the new field of academic study, which will be housed under ASU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Thirteen faculty from nine departments and schools plus five community partnerships have committed for the first year of the certificate program. The project structure will be comprised of four required courses, an internship or capstone project and electives. Organizers are also hopeful that veterans are willing to share their experiences, they said.

"We want as many veterans in our classes to enable them to be teachers while they are students," said Nancy Dallett, associate director with OVMAE. "It should also be a nice mix of veterans and civilians, so they get an idea of the ethos of the

people who want to serve our country."

Dallett said the certificate program will combine the disciplines of history, literature, law, ethics, politics, psychology, sociology and the arts. The intent is to give students a transferable set of skills to prepare them for careers in Veterans Affairs, public policy, nonprofits, criminal justice, humanities, STEM education and even journalism.

"Many corporations today are initiating veteran-hiring initiatives," said Steve Borden, director of ASU's Pat Tillman Veterans Center. "Veteran success in the workplace, retention of hired veterans, as well as their career progression, is predicated upon developing a greater understanding of the difference between our military and civilian cultures."

Matthew Delmont, a professor of history and director of ASU's School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, said he also wanted to give back to veterans.

"The United States has been at war for most of our students' lifetimes, yet fewer than 1 percent of Americans serve in the military," said Delmont, who will be teaching a course on World War II. "Given this, it is

crucially important that we support veteran students and that we make veteran studies a central part of the academic experience of many more ASU students."

Census figures from 2015 and 2016 estimate there are now approximately 18.5 million

veterans nationwide, 600,000 of whom live in Arizona. ASU enrolls more than 7,300 active military, veterans and military family members, making the university a top choice and leader among the nation's most military-friendly schools.

Military and Veteran Success Center provides transitioning resources

With an estimated 532,000 veterans living in Arizona (11 percent of the population), it is in the communities' long-term best interests to help military men and women as they transition to civilian life. The VA Mental Health Services notes that rejoining a non-military community and interviewing for civilian jobs may be difficult for new veterans.

To help make the transition easier for as many retiring service people as possible, a new Military and Veteran Success Center opened Nov. 9 outside the Lightning north gate at Luke Air Force Base.

The center is part of the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation's Veteran Success Project. The primary goal of the project is to establish centers that provide a bridge between veterans and the more than 40,000 resources that help veterans expand their education in college courses and financial literacy, find housing, receive resume writing assistance and more.

Credit Union West is providing sponsorship in monetary and in-kind services of \$60,000 over five years.

To learn more about Maricopa Community College Foundation and the Veteran Success Project, visit <https://mcccdf.org/fundraising/veteran-success-project/>.

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Frequent questions about Luke Days - and a number to call

The Blue Angels will perform demonstrations both days, weather permitting.

Will there be shade?

Limited areas of shade will be available throughout the flight line. Attendees can take a walk through one of the larger static displays to get a break from the sun, as well as a few open hangars featuring displays.

What happens if it rains?

In the event of rain, some flying demonstrations may be delayed. However, unless the weather poses a serious threat to the safety of the visitors and participants, the show will proceed as scheduled with some modifications. In the event of an air show cancellation, announcements will be coordinated with local news agencies as well as posted to social media sites and on the website page with more information, as it becomes available.

Are umbrellas allowed at the air show?

Small rain umbrellas can be taken (the small ones that fit in a purse), but large golf umbrellas or shade umbrellas are banned as they may block the view of spectators behind you.

What type of medical services will be available?

First aid only will be provided, such as oral hydration, treatment for minor cuts and bruises and application of emergency medications (ex. EpiPens).

Medical personnel will stabilize and coordinate transportation to higher level of care for all other injuries/illnesses.

Who can I call for additional information?

For more information, call the 56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office at 623-856-6011.

Mayors' Big Dog Run set for April 7



Photo courtesy Mayor Jerry Weiers
Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers leads the pack during the last Mayors' Big Dog Run.

Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers along with other West Valley mayors present the Mayors' Big Dog Run April 7. The Big Dog Run is a fundraiser for veterans' scholarships at Glendale Community College. The event is held on even-numbered years.

The riders will gather 7:30 a.m. at American Furniture Warehouse, 5801 N. 99th Ave., Glendale, where breakfast will be served. They will proceed to Luke Air Force Base and ride down the tarmac. Then, riders will proceed to the University of Phoenix Stadium, where they will go into the facility and circle the football field.

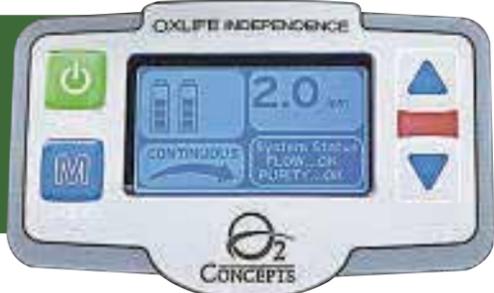
The Big Dog Run will culminate at ISM Raceway, formerly Phoenix International Raceway, where everyone in the ride will make a lap around the raceway, 7602 S. Avondale Blvd., Avondale, and stay to watch the races.

A donation of \$60 per person will include the ride, breakfast and tickets for the ISM races.

The ride concludes 5 p.m.

Register at www.mayorsbigdogrun.com.

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