



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

Winter 2016

F-35 academic training begins at Luke

By STAFF SGT. GRACE LEE 56TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It was a historic moment as the first class of undergraduate pilots began training through the newly written F-35 Lightning II syllabus Monday in the F-35 Academic Training Center at Luke Air Force Base.

The day was long awaited as Luke personnel worked to create the syllabus for several years.

"The start of the F-35 B-course class today is the culmination of years of work by thousands of U.S. and partner active duty, civilian, industry and government personnel," said Maj. Matthew

Mayer, 56th Fighter Wing F-35 Program Integration Chief. "Specifically over the past several years, the Luke F-35 team has taken delivery of the world's newest leading edge combat aircraft. They put it through the wringer to fully understand its capabilities then based on lessons learned, designed a training program to produce world class F-35 pilots and support personnel for decades to come. This was no easy task. Many traditional '4th Generation' support, maintenance and operations methods and procedures needed updating, modifying, or all together recreation. Many open minds have engaged

MORE TRAINING ON 7



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Grace Lee

Brig. Gen. Brook Leonard, 56th Fighter Wing commander, welcomes the first class of F-35 Lightning II student pilots to train under the newly made F-35 syllabus Dec. 5 in the F-35 Academic Training Center auditorium at Luke Air Force Base. The syllabus was created to teach pilots without prior fighter jet experience how to fly the F-35.



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From the Desk of Fighter Country Partnership

What I'm thankful for

As is common this time of year, I was recently thinking of what I'm thankful for. I'm healthy, I've got a great family, and I've got a cool job. My son started at ASU this fall and is getting ready to change his major and pursue his dreams.

My daughter has finished her schooling and has recently gotten married. Her husband graduated at the top of his class at Army Basic Training and Advanced Infantry Training. I'm thankful and excited for them to start their adventure together.

My wife and I are about to celebrate 24 years of being married. We've had our fair share of adventures together and I'm thankful about the opportunities and experiences that are to come for us in the future.

I'm thankful that I'm part of an organization that is so full of intelligent and compassionate people. I'm thankful that I can be part of something bigger than myself and I feel like I'm making a positive impact. The communities that surround Luke Air Force Base are like no other and I am thankful Fighter



Bill Johnston Program Director, Fighter Country Partnership

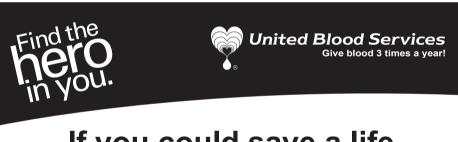
Country Partnership has so many supporters that feel as passionate about supporting the men, women, families, and mission of Luke Air Force Base as I do. It's because of those supporters that we could have a fantastic Operation Thunderbox The communities that surround Luke Air Force Base are like no other and I am thankful Fighter Country Partnership has so many supporters that feel as passionate about supporting the men, women, families, and mission of Luke Air Force Base as I do. It's because of those supporters that we could have a fantastic Operation Thunderbox this year.

this year. We'll be holding our annual dorm dweller holiday party and another Blue Blazer Squadron mentoring session with a group of junior and senior Noncommissioned Officers in just a few weeks. I'm thankful for our deployed family's dinners and the Finance Expo that we'll be part of in a few months. I'm thankful for all the programs that support Luke Air Force Base.

I'm also thankful for the more than 5,500 men and women of Luke Air Force Base. Every day, those active duty, reserve, contractor and federal civilian employees go to work to make good on their promise to deliver fully-trained fighter pilots to the United States Air Force.

I'm thankful that the Air Force Reserve part of Luke Air Force Base call being assigned to Luke the same as winning the lottery. I'm thankful that the mission of Luke Air Force Base is ever-expanding to include more and more international partners and the positive effects that we have on the entire Phoenix Valley. I'm thankful that we have senior leadership in the Air Force that sees Fighter Country Partnership for what it is - the platinum standard of military support organizations.

Finally, when I was in uniform, it was not uncommon for random people to come up to me, extend their hand and thank me for my service. Now that I'm on the other side, I make a point of doing the same thing when I see a service member within the local community to show my appreciation for them and how thankful I am for what they do each and every day.



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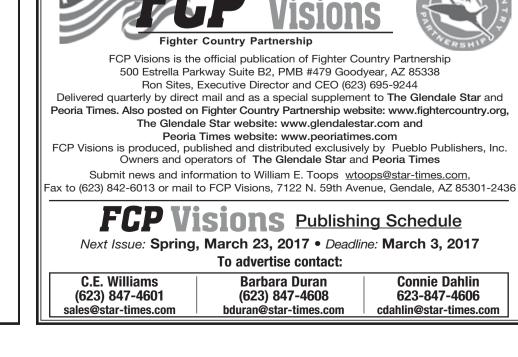
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Luke Airman uses SABC to save hit and run victim

Nov. 30, an Airman had a choice between being a bystander and letting someone else take care of a situation or responding immediately. He chose to respond, and his actions possibly helped save a life.

"As I was pulling into the parking lot, I saw a purse with all items out of it and I thought, 'This doesn't seem right'," said Senior Airman Vernon Sparks, 56th Force Support Squadron retirement and separations technician. "When I went to investigate, I saw a woman laying across the ground."

His Self-Aid Buddy Care training immediately crossed Sparks' mind as he ran over to assist the woman.

"I asked her if she was okay, but received no response," Sparks said. "I checked her vitals and found a steady pulse. As I was performing SABC, she regained consciousness



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Devante Williams

Senior Airman Veron Sparks, 56th Force Support Squadron retirement and separations technician, used SABC to help a victim of a hit-and-run. and immediately started to panic. I informed her I was a military member and was just making sure she was okay."

The woman told Sparks she believed she was a victim of a hit-and-run, but had she had little memory of what happened.

"I had her wiggle her hands, feet and legs to make sure she had a full range of motion," Sparks said. "Then I assisted her off the ground and onto the sidewalk. I dialed 911 and stayed with her to keep her calm until the ambulance arrived. She told me she didn't need medical attention, but I called anyway because you never know what could be wrong."

Sparks knew what needed to be done and took initiative to help the woman.

"I was scared," he said.
"At first I thought she wasn't alive, but I'm thankful she

was. The exercises from my last base at Osan Air Base in South Korea helped me tremendously, because SABC was one of the main topics we trained on. When taking the SABC online training, make sure to pay attention, you never know when you'll have to put the training to use."

Sparks did what he was trained to do, and his decision to help is one example of being a good wingman.

What's the difference between credit unions and banks?

When you walk into the lobby, or call a loan officer, what makes a credit union different from a bank isn't immediately apparent. While the two financial institutions may offer similar products and services, the similarities stop there. Crucial differences exist--in ownership, in cost of borrowing money, and in use of services.

* Members own credit unions. Credit unions are member-owned non-profit financial cooperatives dedicated to improving members' lives. More than 106.1 million members own 6,009 U.S. credit unions with combined assets of \$1.2 trillion. Stockholders own banks. Banks make money for stockholders, not for customers.

Credit unions are the only democrati-

cally controlled financial institutions in the United States. Members elect a volunteer board of directors to oversee the credit union. The president/chief executive officer

reports to this board. Bank directors, however, are paid and legally bound to make decisions that benefit stockholders, not customers.

* Credit unions typically offer better rates. Credit unions price loans, pay dividends on funds you've deposited, and charge fees to provide you with high-quality, low-cost services. Banks price prod-



ucts and services to make a profit.

Credit union loan rates are often better than banks. Money market, savings, and checking accounts pay higher dividends-

-giving back more to members. Interest rates on credit cards and auto loans average more than one percentage point lower than bank rates. Credit unions make consumer loans and some member business loans. Banks offer consumer loans, but really emphasize business loans.

* Credit unions educate members about money matters. They provide various publications to keep you advised of rates, loan sales, and financial trends that affect you. Credit unions stress education, providing materials and conducting classes on financial planning, car, and home buying to help you make informed buying decisions. Many banks simply advertise their rates and sell their services.

Credit Union West has a 65-year history of providing financial services and education to military members and their families. Their goal is to be a trusted financial partner to their members and firmly believe in the philosophy of "people helping people." To learn more about the products and services available at Credit Union West, visit www.cuwest.org. Federally insured by NCUA.







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Patriot All-America Invitational golfers honor fallen soldiers

SPECIAL TO FIGHTER COUNTRY **PARTNERSHIP**

The collegiate golfers participating in this year's Patriot All-America Invitational, to be played December 27 to 31 at The Wigwam Golf Club in Litchfield Park, will once again be playing for more than just themselves or their school. Participants will be playing in honor of a fallen or severely wounded soldier and carrying a golf bag with the name, rank, branch and story of their military member written on it.

The Patriot All-America has been honoring fallen or severely wounded soldiers in this unique way since the event's inception in 2011 and it continues to have a deep impact on the young golfers.

"Having the name of a fallen soldier on your bag and playing for them, it means a lot," said University of Southern California junior golfer Sean Crocker. "This event is more than just another tournament."

"Playing in The Patriot has truly changed the way I look at the game of golf," said former University of Michigan golfer Chris O'Neill. "When you hit a bad shot, it's not the end of the world, it was a bad golf shot. I'm honored to play in this event and to do my best for MORE than myself."

The idea of the inscribed golf bags was the brainchild of Gregg Grost of the **Golf Coaches Association** of America. In cooperation with the Folds of Honor Foundation, the golfers receive their special golf bag at the event's opening ceremony with the name and branch of service of a fallen or injured military member whom they shall represent. Participants also receive a card with the soldier's story, so they can be familiar with who that person was, what they represented and how they were killed or wounded in action.

"The connection that these players make with the names on their bags, the families behind those names and the soldiers



Golf bags at the Patriot All-America Invitational show rname, rank, branch and story of the military member.

that sacrificed for us, we realized very early on that was what this event was all about," said Tom O'Malley, Chief Operating Officer, JDM Partners.

At the conclusion of the tournament, the golf bags are shipped to players' schools and auctioned with all proceeds benefitting the Folds of Honor Foundation, which provides postsecondary educational scholarships for children and spouses of military service men and women killed or disabled while in active service. To date, more than \$73,500 has been raised for Folds of Honor through auctioning of the golf bags.

About The Patriot All-America Invitational

Featuring golf's stars of tomorrow, The Patriot

All-America is regarded as a top amateur event nationally, attracting PING All-America golfers from all three NCAA Divisions, NAIA and NJ-CAA rankings as well as from universities outside the United States. The Arizona Golf Association (AGA), JDM Partners and the Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA) partnering with the Folds

of Honor Foundation to host the tournament.

The 2016 Patriot All-America Invitational collegiate golf tournament will be played December 27-31 at The Wigwam Golf Club in Litchfield Park, Ariz. A field of 84 top amateur players will compete in a 54-hole, stroke-play competition on The Wigwam's famed Gold Course. Competitive rounds will be played December 29, 30 and 31 with a champion crowned at approximately 4 PM on New Year's Eve.

Invitations to The Patriot All-America are primarily based on individuals earning PING All-America honors the previous season in NCAA Divisions I, II and III as well as the NAIA and NJCAA Divisions I and II. Additionally, a member from each of the nation's military academies are invited as well as GCAA national award recipients, members of the most recent Arnold Palmer Cup Teams and AJGA All-Americans and

More GOLF on 7

The City of







GOLF: Alums include PGA Tour stars, From 6

Toyota Junior Golf World Cup participants currently enrolled in their freshman year of college.

The winner of the 2016 Patriot All-America Invitational will receive a sponsor exemption into the Web.com Tour's 2017 Air Capital Classic in Wichita, Kan. The Air Capital Classic will be played June 8 to 18 at Crestview Country Club. Two Patriot All-America alums have won the Air Capital Classic, including defending 2016 Air Capital Classic champion Ollie Schniederjans (2011 and 2012 Patriot participant) and 2014 Air Capital Classic champion Sebastian Cappelen (2011, 2012 and 2013 Patriot participant and 2012 Patriot champion).

Current PGA Tour stars who have played in The Patriot All-America Invitational during their college careers, include: Brooks Koepka (2011), Trey Mullinax (2011), Patrick Rodgers (2011), Justin Thomas (2011), Bobby Wyatt (2011), Daniel Berger (2012), Brandon

Hagy (2012), Ollie Schniederjans (2012), Richy Werenski (2012), Bryson DeChambeau (2013) and JT Poston (2014).

Past Patriot All-America champions include: Braden Thornberry from the University of Mississippi (2015); Kyle Kochevar from the University of Virginia (2014), Kyle Westmoreland from the Air Force Academy (2013); Sebastian Cappelen from the University of Arkansas (2012); and Cory Whitsett, from the University of Alabama (2011).

About Wigwam Golf Club

The Wigwam's three 18-hole championship golf courses offer a diversity that cannot be matched by any other Arizona resort. Here, the golf enthusiast has their pick of not just one or two courses, but three 18-hole courses – 54 holes of championship golf including two courses designed by the legendary Robert Trent Jones, Sr. And, in true Wigwam

style, each course – The Gold, Patriot, which just celebrated their 50th anniversaries, and Heritage – offers a unique challenge that adds spice and variety to one's stay at this timeless and relaxing retreat. In December 2009, The Wigwam (including the golf courses and resort property) was purchased by JDM Partners, led by sports icon Jerry Colangelo.

The Gold Course has hosted many signature tournaments over the years, including numerous U.S. Open Qualifiers, U.S. Amateur Qualifiers, several NCAA Regional Championships and the annual Patriot All-America Invitational, one of the top amateur competitions in the world. The 7,430 yard, par 72 course has also received various industry awards and accolades since opening in 1965, including being named one of the "Top 100 Golf Courses in America."

For more information, visit www.wigwamgolf. com.

TRAINING: No experience necessary, From 1

that challenge and succeeded in laying a solid foundation to carry the U.S. and its allies into the future of combat aviation."

The course is more than seven months long. The first few weeks will be focused on academics and simulators. The remainder of the course will be a combination of flying, academics and simulators.

For those who don't know, traditionally only pilots with prior fighter jet experience were chosen to fly the F-35. Under the new F-35 curriculum, pilots with no prior experience flying fighter aircraft will be able to learn to fly the F-35 as their first fighter jet.

"The six pilots selected have flown the T-38 Talon," said Lt. Col. Matthew Hayden, 56th Training Squadron commander. "The pipeline for undergraduate pilot training is first training on the T-6 Texan II and then they will be selected into either a fighter track or a cargo/tanker track. Our pilots have been track selected into the fighter track so they went on to fly the T-38 to earn their wings.

"Afterward they went through a course called Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals during which they also flew the T-38. The IFF is essentially a shorter course that is a snapshot of mission sets we typically do in a fighter. From there, pilots are branched off into either the F-16, F-22, A-10 Thunderbolt II or in this case, the F-35."

The need to create the curriculum arose to ensure the future and growth of the F-35 community.

"Pilots that are fresh out of pilot training have an advantage because since they have no fighter jet experience, they are able to better absorb what we teach them and don't come with habits that more experienced fighter pilots may bring when

learning a new platform," Hayden said. "The new syllabus also benefits the Air Force in the long run by building experience in the F-35 and shaping the F-35 platform and the community."

As students go through the course, adjustments will be made to the syllabus as needed.

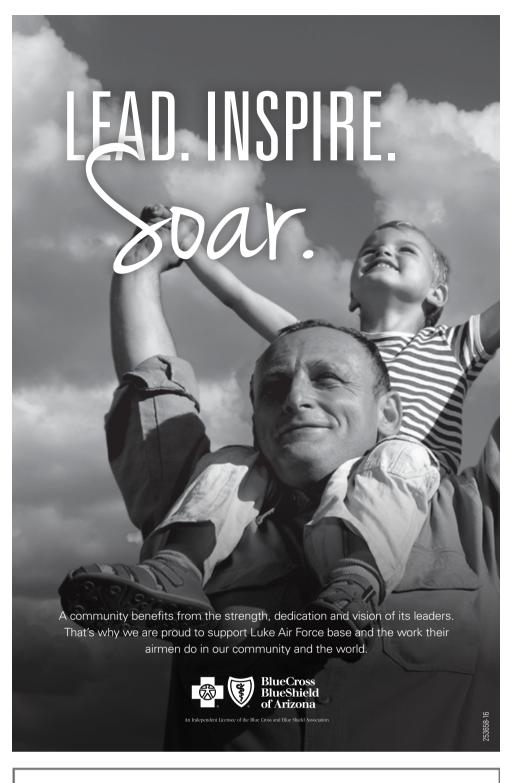
"Throughout the course we will be gathering the lessons learned by phase," Gette said. "Then the lessons learned will be vetted and pushed up to influence syllabus changes."

One F-35 student pilot shares his feelings about the course.

"We're all very grateful and excited to be here," said Capt. Anthony Nejman, 61st FS F-35 student pilot. "I'm really looking forward to flying again and can't wait to get in the seat of an F-35."

The creation of the new F-35 syllabus and start of the first class marks a monumental moment for not only Luke but the Air Force overall.

"We've entered a new phase of training F-35 pilots," said Col. Benjamin Bishop, 56th Operations Group commander. "The student pilots starting today are the future of the F-35 program because five, 10, 15 years from now when these pilots assume leadership roles, they are going to lead the community with a different perspective. It is a phenomenal opportunity today to innovate and to take this airplane into the next step. This syllabus is the future of fighter aviation, especially in the F-35 community, as the F-35 becomes more and more prevalent. We already reached initial operational capability and now we're reaching toward the next step to full warfighting capability. I'm excited about being a part of this program and again in the 56th Fighter Wing, 'We build the future of airpower' and this is an important



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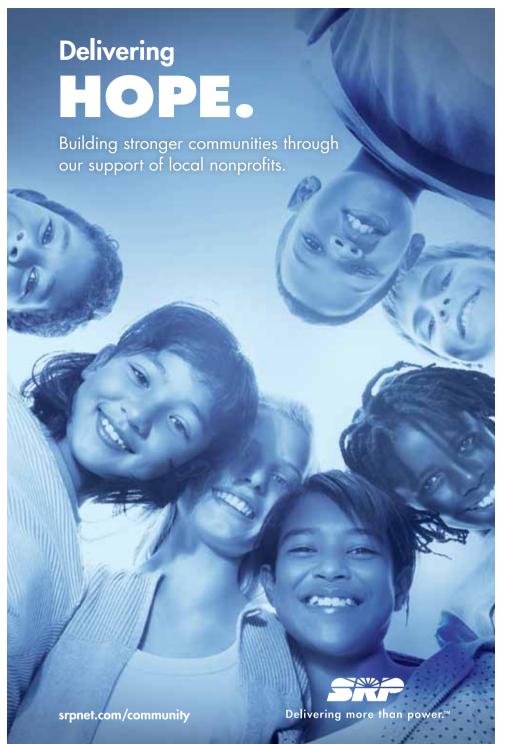
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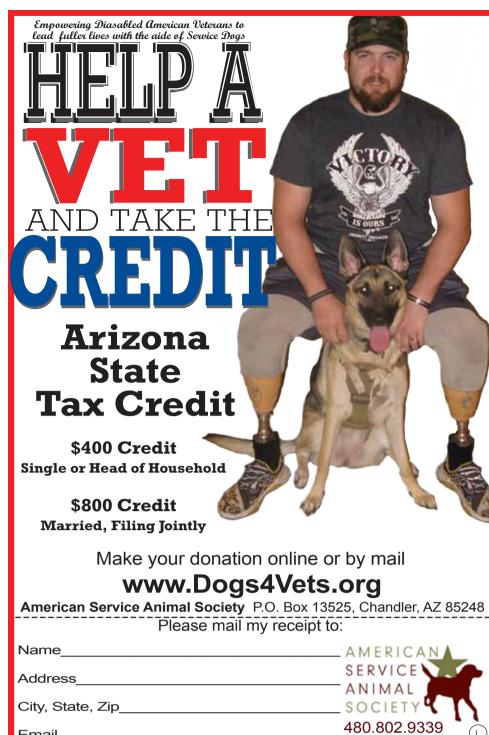


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For more information and to find out how to qualify visit azcaa.org/utility-assistance









Email

SolarCity and Balfour Beatty Communities near completion of 6.9 megawatts of solar at Air Force family housing

Balfour Beatty Communities and SolarCity are nearing completion approximately seven megawatts of solar at Air Force family housing in four states. The rooftop solar panels are installed across the residential communities managed by Balfour Beatty Communities at Travis Air Force Base (AFB), in California; Sheppard AFB in Texas; Tyndall AFB in Florida; and Luke AFB in Arizona. Together, the installations utilize more than 26,000 solar panels to provide power to more than two thousand housing units.

"I am very pleased to see this renewable, greenenergy project coming to Travis Air Force Base," said Congressman John Garamendi of California. "Installing solar on the homes of service members living in base housing makes sense. This type of creative partnership between private and public entities and the communities surrounding our major military installations has become essential to the long-term viability of those bases and the critical missions they execute. Funding for facility enhancements and critical base infrastructure has become very scarce due to budget cuts and sequestration. These types of partnerships leverage private and community resources to produce a win-win scenario that mutually benefits all partners. This project will save taxpayer money, help build long-term sustainability into the base, and is strategically smart for our military, our environment, and our nation."

"I commend all parties involved, especially the leadership at Travis Air Force, for prioritizing national security and military families, hiring of veterans, and deploying affordable clean energy in this innovative project that achieves multiple state and federal goals", said California State Assembly Member Jim



Photo courtesy Solar City

Military housing across the country is getting cleaner, more affordable solar energy.

Frazier (D-Oakley), whose district includes Travis Air Force Base.

"The Luke Air Force Base solar project demonstrates how publicprivate collaboration can improve energy security and boost economic development by lowering utility costs and providing jobs for Arizona families, all through the magic of producing energy from Arizona's most abundant resource, the sun," said Lupe Contreras, State Senator and Senate Minority Whip in Arizona Senate District 19.

SolarCity designed, built and will maintain the solar power systems, and the military housing project companies (jointly operated by the Air Force and Balfour Beatty Communities) realize savings from the lower cost of solar power. The rooftop installations will total nearly 7 megawatts (MW) of solar power generation capacity— Luke AFB is the largest of the installations with approximately 3.5 MW of solar followed by Tyndall AFB at 1.4 MW, Sheppard AFB at 1.1 MW and Travis AFB with just under 1MW capacity.

"We are proud to extend our successful solar energy program to select properties within our Air Force portfolio," said Chris Williams, president of Balfour Beatty Communities. "When

installation is complete at these properties, we will have more than 40 megawatts of solar power generating capacity across our military portfolio. We are quite pleased to be able to partner with SolarCity to bring this clean, sustainable energy resource to so many of our communities."

The SolarStrong initiative creates jobs across the country with dozens of staff working on and installing each individual solar project. SolarCity emphasizes veteran hiring across the company, and has hired military veterans in over 90 locations across the United States in installation, recruiting, business development, sales and more.

SolarCity is the largest provider of solar energy to military housing in the country, and has projects on 37 military bases in 12 states providing power to tens of thousands of military personnel and their families.

About SolarCity

SolarCity (NASDAQ: SCTY) provides clean energy. The company has disrupted the centuryold energy industry by providing renewable electricity directly to homeowners, businesses and government organizations for less than they spend on utility bills. SolarCity gives customers control of their energy costs to protect them from rising rates. The company makes solar energy easy by taking care of everything from design and permitting to monitoring and maintenance. Visit the company online at www. solarcity.com and follow the company on Facebook & Twitter.

About Balfour Beatty Communities

Balfour Beatty Communities, LLC is

a diversified real estate services company delivering development, design, financing, construction, renovation, property and facilities management services in the multifamily, student and military housing sectors. A leader in the industry, Balfour Beatty Communities has more than 50,000 residential units and \$6 billion in real estate assets under management and has developed or renovated more than 29,000 units with a total value of close to \$4 billion. Headquartered outside Philadelphia, PA, Balfour Beatty Communities has more than 1,200 employees and is a subsidiary of Balfour Beatty Investments, Inc.

Balfour Beatty Investments is part of Balfour Beatty plc, a global leader in construction services, support services, and infrastructure investment.





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LAFB blood donors are special heroes to Valley babies

When donors give blood at Luke Air Force Base, they help babies like PJ, the 8month-old daughter of United Blood Services Donor Recruitment Representative Katrina Eaton.

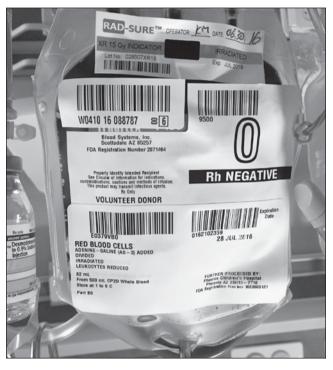
On March 8, Katrina gave birth to a healthy baby girl, but the situation rapidly changed. Baby PJ got a cold that became pneumonia that quickly progressed into respiratory failure. She was taken to the closest ER and then transported by medical helicopter to a Valley children's hospital.

"Babies like PJ go through so much before they can even receive a transfusion. It is so important to take one hour to give blood," emphasized Katrina. "Our family is forever grateful for the three

Right, Baby PJ required a transfusion during surgery to insert a tracheotomy to help her breath.



Photos courtesy United Blood Services
Baby PJ was so little that she required a transfusion
to replace blood lost through medical testing alone.





The transfusion gave Baby PJ enough strength to undergo a procedure to insert a feeding tube since she can't eat enough by mouth due to her respiratory issues.

donors who gave the blood our daughter has required."

Baby PJ will require more medical tests, surgeries and mostlikely depend upon additional blood transfusions. But her parents hope she will finally be strong enough to come home soon thanks to medical technology, skilled doctors and blood donors who have helped her survive life-threatening circumstances. United Blood Services is Arizona's largest non-profit community blood provider that serves the needs of 64 hospitals, including Phoenix Children's Hospital and Cardon Children's Medical Center.

United Blood Services' LAFB Donation Locations - Appointments Recommended

Visit www.BloodHero.com (Sponsor Code: LAFB) or Call 1-877-UBS-HERO (827-4376)

Luke Air Force Base Blood Drives – Sponsor Code: LAFB (Base Access Credentials Required)

- Sun, Dec 11, 9 a.m. 1 p.m.: Navy Operational Support Ctr, 14160 W.
 Marauder St, Bloodmobile by Navy Reserve
- Tues, Dec 13, 10 a.m. 2 p.m.: 308/309/310 AMUs, 14450 W. Spad, Bloodmobile by Building 913
- Wed, Dec 21, 8 a.m. 12 p.m.: LRS, 14171 W. Starfighter, Bloodmobile by Building 945
- Wed, Dec 21, 9 a.m. 1 p.m.: 56 Force Support Squadron, 7383 N. Litchfield Road, Bloodmobile by Building 1150
- Thurs, Jan 5, 12 p.m. 4 p.m.: 56 EMS, 6207 N. Ammo Dr LGMW, Bloodmobile by Building 859
- Sun, Jan 8, 8 a.m. 12 p.m.: Reserve 944, 17408 Super Sabre, inside Building 999
- Tues, Jan 17, 10 a.m. 2 p.m.: CE, 13970 Lightning St., Bloodmobile by Building 343
- Wed, Jan 25, 9 a.m. 1 p.m.: Medical Group, 7219 N. Litchfield Road., Bloodmobile by Building 1145
- Thurs, Jan 26, 8 a.m. 12 p.m.: 607 ACS, 14793 W. Corsair St., Bloodmobile by Building 1390
- Tues, Jan 31, 1 p.m. 5 p.m.: CMS, 6608 N. Tovrea, Bloodmobile by Building 917

Goodyear Donor Center: 14270 W. Indian School Rd.

Hours: Tues. & Wed. 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., Thurs. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. & Sat. 7 a.m. – 2 p.m.



F-35 surges forward with record-breaking weapons tests

By CHRISTOPHER BALL 412TH TEST WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The F-35 Integrated Test Force here recently completed 25 missions comprised of 12 weapons delivery accuracy and 13 weapon separation tests as part of a month-long weapons firing test surge.

Historically, WDAs take place once a month given the myriad of coordination required. The highest number previously accomplished in a month was three in November 2014 during block 2B software testing.

Maj. Charles Trickey, interim director of operations for the 461st Flight Test Squadron, flew the final mission of the surge Aug. 17. The mission was completed at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, where F-35 Lightning IIs shot two advanced medium-range, air-to-air missiles at a QF-4 drone.

"Some of these WDAs were particularly challenging events," Trickey said. He said the final mission was actually the fourth attempt to complete this test. "It was really cool

to see the satisfaction of the team, and to get that feeling of accomplishment after doing something that challenging."

All told, the F-35 ITF deployed 30 weapons in 31 days, which included 12 WDAs and 13 separations, according to Trickey.

"Thirty separations in 31 days; that's never been done before in flight test," said Capt. Brett Tillman, a flight test engineer with the 461st FTS. "The fact that we could get everything together to do that number of separations in that few days is pretty amazing."

These successful test events -- performed using the F-35's newest block 3F software -- demonstrated the accuracy of the aircraft. Five of the test events featured dropping multiple weapons.

The effort for this surge wasn't limited to the F-35 test team. There were a number of units outside the F-35 ITF that put in extra effort and time to make the surge successful, including Edwards AFB airfield and tanker operations, the 416th FTS and the F-35 Joint Program Office.



Photo courtesy Lockheed Martin/Darrin Russell

Maj. Douglas Rosenstock fires an AIM-120 AMRAAM from an F-35 Lightning II during a recent weapons test surge at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. By the end of the surge the F-35 Integrated Test Team released 30 weapons in 31 days, a first in flight testing.

team was given exclusive use of the Sea Test Range, an instrumented Pacific Ocean test area off the central coast near Point Mugu, California. Tests were also conducted at the U.S. Navy's China Lake weapons range in California and White Sands missile range.

"The amount of coordination and teamwork from the ITF and the outside organizations to enable this is unprecedented," Tillman said. "The work these team members put in is amazing. It couldn't have been done without them."

During this surge period, The F-35 weapons test a total of 30 weapons were

dropped or fired, including the joint direct attack munition, AIM-120 advanced mediumrange, air-to-air missile, GPS-guided 250-pound small diameter bomb, AIM-9X Sidewinder supersonic, heatseeking, air-to-air missile and GPS laser-guided munition.

"The WDAs rely on the full capability of the F-35 -multiple sensors, navigation, weapons envelope, mission planning, data links and interagency range scheduling -- all working in sequence to put steel on target," said Lt. Gen. Chris Bogdan, an F-35 program executive officer. "This was a tremendous effort by the F-35 test team. They surged and worked seven days a week for more than a month to expend 30 ordnance and advanced weapons testing. This testing has moved us that much closer to delivering the full F-35 capability to warfighters within the next two years."

The F-35 is a multi-role, next-generation fighter that combines advanced stealth with speed, agility and a 360-degree view of the battlespace. The F-35 will form the backbone of air combat superiority for decades to come and replace legacy tactical fighter fleets with dominant air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities to deter and defeat potential adversaries.

The Marine Corps declared the F-35B combat ready, or initial operating capability, in July 2015; the Air Force declared F-35A IOC on Aug. 2; and the Navy intends to attain F-35C IOC in 2018. More than 200 F-35s have flown in excess of 66,000 fleetwide hours, with over 300 F-35 pilots and 3,000 maintainers trained to operate and support this next-generation aircraft.





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White Boat Crew reflect on significance of history and tradition at Pearl Harbor

By PETTY OFFICER
2ND CLASS
JEFFREY TROUTMAN
NAVY PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SUPPORT ELEMENT
DETACHMENT
HAWAII

"I've been looking forward to this moment for quite a while now, and it's finally near," says Petty Officer 1st Class Wren Pettett of Atoka, Okla. "You always hear so much about the history of Pearl Harbor, but to actually be a part of that history."

His voice trails off as he tries to find words that describe his emotions.

Over his shoulder, the sun begins to set behind the Battleship Missouri Memorial, and to his right, the USS Arizona Memorial. Each day, Pettett has the honor of driving one of the white boats that tour the waters of Pearl Harbor, as visitors from around the world come to pay their respects and learn about the history that lives in infamy after that fateful December day in 1941.

Today, Pettett drove around perhaps the most

important kind of visitor: the survivors of the Pearl Harbor attacks and their families, here to honor the 75th anniversary of one of the United States' darkest days. For the young Oklahoman, he expressed that "opportunity of a lifetime" doesn't begin to justify the honor.

"Every day, when I'm driving one of these boats and we go by the resting place of the USS Oklahoma, the USS Utah and the USS Arizona, the humbling feeling of honor and privilege I feel to take people around this beautiful harbor is indescribable," said Pettett. "But to have the honor of driving a boat carrying survivors of the Pearl Harbor attacks for the 75th anniversary ... it brings a new kind of self-worth to this job. It makes me happy to be alive in this moment, to serve at this particular moment in history."

As the survivors and their family members make their way onto a white boat, moments from reuniting with the memories of a day long past but never forgotten, Seaman Erwinn Garrett of Houston, Texas,



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Rebecca Wolfbrandt

Peter B. Dupre', a World War II veteran, plays "America the Beautiful" at the USS Arizona Memorial during a World War II veterans harbor tour of Pearl Harbor. Dec. 7, 2016, marks the 75th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor and Oahu. As a Pacific nation, the U.S. is committed to continue its responsibility of protecting the Pacific sea-lanes, advancing international ideals and relationships, well as delivering security, influence, and responsiveness in the region.

renders honors to a Medal of Honor recipient. He then helps a survivor in a wheelchair get up the brow. A gentleman's wife appears and he helps her aboard and then to her seat. For him, this isn't his job or duty. It's his way to say thank you and pay his respects to the sacrifices these men and their families made almost eight decades ago.

"This is my first duty station," said Garrett. "When I found out I was coming to Pearl Harbor right out of basic training, I was elated. I knew it meant I'd be here for the 75th anniversary, and that's a once in a lifetime opportunity for anyone, not just a service member."

Garrett, like Pettett, said he needs a moment to take in the fullness of his day, with the survivors, before he can accurately describe its impact on him.

"If there's one thing I've learned from the survivors here these last few days, it's that there really is no shipmate that gets left behind," said Garrett. "These men didn't just work together; they lived together and died together. And for them to come back year after year, decade after decade, to honor their fallen shipmates, it sets a precedent for any generation of our Navy."

The survivors take their seats and the boat pulls away from the pier. A light rain begins to fall as the tour makes its way out past historic Ford Island and heads first towards the

USS Utah Memorial. Chief Petty Officer Michael Sears from Clatskanie, Oregon, the narrator for this tour, immediately lets the survivors know how grateful the Navy is for their service and sacrifice. Sears has voluntarily narrated this tour dozens of times in the past, but this one holds special meaning.

"I previously worked in public affairs here in Hawaii and I've always helped out with the white boat tour narration, because it's a fun thing to do and the atmosphere is always good," said Sears. "I do this because, to me, history will be repeated if it's not known. The time we spend with these survivors and learn about the things they had to endure in their time of service is the only way that we'll ever honor their sacrifice and prevent this kind of attack from ever happening again."

At the Arizona Memorial, the survivors and their families return to the resting place of the 1,177 Sailors who lost their lives

during the attacks on Pearl Harbor and Oahu. Some weep openly, while others pray silently to their fallen friends. Others embrace and share memories of how much the area has changed since they were stationed here, all those years ago. One survivor stands before the wall of names, at the end of the memorial, and points out the names of men he may have known during his time of service.

Nearly 75 years after a day that would help define their entire lives, these men came back to pay their respects to those who never lived past that day.

"It's surreal, when you try to take it all in," said Seaman Anthony Ruiz, of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, one of the ushers on the white boat tour. "This 75th remembrance has given my career a new meaning going forward. These veterans are why we're here today, why this country is as great as it is today and why our Navy is the best of its kind. It's because of them, and the sacrifices they've made.

"To just have the chance to show my appreciation for that and to be a part of this anniversary is something I'll remember for the rest of my life."

As evening colors are rendered and the sun dips under the Pacific horizon, the white boat eases off the dock of the memorial and heads back to land.

Survivors and active duty Sailors sit next to one another and share some of their adventures. Some look back at the memorial and wave to their fallen shipmates.

It isn't goodbye. It's a salute to their timeless sacrifice.





City of El Mirage Council



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Aiyana Paschal

Petty Officer 2nd Class Sarah Meadows, from Marion, III., talks with Pearl Harbor survivor Lou Conter, 95, of Grass Valley, Calif., during a scheduled meet and greet. Dec. 7, 2016, marks the 75th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor and Oahu. As a Pacific nation, the U.S. is committed to continue its responsibility of protecting the Pacific sea-lanes, advancing international ideals and relationships, well as delivering security, influence, and responsiveness in the region.



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WEMAR Motor Sports Group wows crowd and donates half of proceeds to many veterans' charities

By RANDY MILLER
SPECIAL TO
FIGHTER COUNTRY
PARTNERSHIP

Well, it's that time of year again. The temperatures have cooled down and the cars have come out. Throughout the Valley there are car shows everywhere. Whether you like old cars, new cars, hot rods or rat rods, there was something for everyone at the West Maricopa Association of Realtors Car show put on by the WEMAR Motor Sports Group. Last year's show at Cabela's was amazing and this year's show at the Peoria Sports Complex managed to eclipse even that.

More than 500 cars were present and more than 120 sponsors and vendors were in attendance. This year's cochairpersons were Ray Strahl and Tony Scardina of WeMAR MSG. But... lest you think it was just



Matching Pink Studebakers were displayed by avid golfer and car enthusiast Michelle Lundeen. Not shown is the pink flamingo resting under the pink umbrella. "Some ladies get a diamond bracelet" she said, "but I got a new engine for my car."

about the cars, it was much, much more.

The annual event normally raises money to fund the various charities supported by WeMAR C.A.R.E.S., a group assisting Realtors and affiliate members experiencing crisis or tragic events through no fault of their own. But this group didn't just say they were

having a Veterans Car Show. They backed it up by donating half the money raised to veterans' charities.

Twenty-two percent was donated to Soldiers Best Friends, a nonprofit organization in Peoria that provides U.S. military veterans living with combat-related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), with Service or Therapeutic Companion Dogs, most of which are rescued from local shelters. The veteran and dog train together to build a trusting relationship that saves two lives at once and inspires countless others.

Another 22 percent was donated to Vietnam Veter-



Photos by Randy Miller

Ray Strahl, right, co-chairperson, and Nancy Perry, who assisted at the WeMAR Salute to Veterans Car show at Peoria Sports Complex.

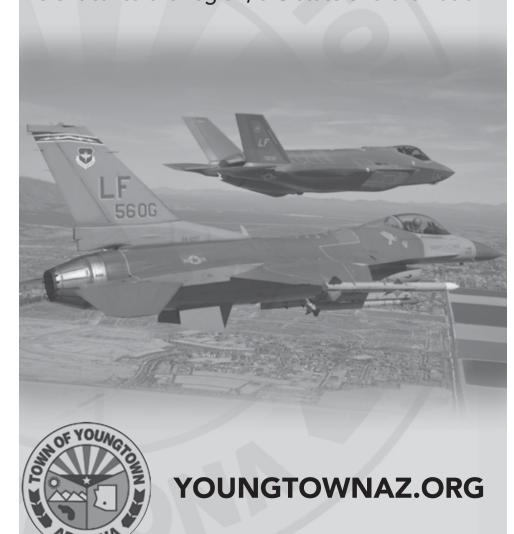
ans #432, whose website lists their goals as promoting and supporting the full range of issues important to Vietnam veterans, including creation of a new identity for this generation of veterans, and to change public perception of Vietnam veterans. The remaining 6 percent was

donated to the Veterans Association of Real Estate Professionals and Valley View Community Food Bank.

The show was a resounding success and its effects will continue to benefit many veterans and Realtors throughout the coming year and beyond.

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U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Devante Williams

Members of the Luke Experience group perform "Chicago" Nov. 18, 2016 at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. The play was put on by Luke Experience, which is an on-base community theater group of which people can come, audition, and perform in a show for the families of the Department of Defense and military personnel.

Curtain call for Luke theater troupe

By SENIOR AIRMAN DEVANTE WILLIAMS 56TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Luke Experience is a theatre group, consisting of volunteers with a passion for acting, that perform shows on stage throughout the year. However, most are not aware of the amount of time and effort it takes to produce a play.

"It takes a lot of coordination and teamwork for a play to happen from behind the scenes work to casting actors." said Lacey Quattlebaum-McCalmon, 56th Force Support Squadron library technician and Luke Experience technician.

The flux and influx of participants is a natural occurrence Luke Experience members have learned to juggle.

"We hurt for actors and because of this, males have to play female roles and vice versa," Quattlebaum-McCalmon said. "We do what we have to because at the end of the day, the show must go on."

With all hands on deck for a play, the planning begins with a brainstorm consisting of existing Luke Experience personnel.

"We work together to select shows

and obtain scripts," Quattlebaum-McCalmon said. "Auditions are held, actors are selected and rehearsals begin."

For the Luke Experience, no experience is necessary as anyone can volunteer.

"Sometimes we might have all the casting for the play but we can definitely use extra volunteers for stage setup," Quattlebaum-McCalmon said. "The list of jobs for backstage help ranges from sound technicians to light and spotlight technicians."

Luke Experience members aim to perform at the highest caliber for their audience and do this by targeting our new beliefs at Luke: focusing on the culture with a campaign mindset.

"We're one big family," said Senior Airman Ronal Fantasia, 56th Contracting Squadron contracting specialist. "It takes all of us to put on a show. We might have bumps here and there but that's expected. We're passionate about what we do and want to put on an incredible show. If you're available please come out and support us."

For more information on how to volunteer, call the Luke Experience at 623-670-4675.



Luke Experience members aim to perform at the highest caliber for their audience and do this by targeting our new beliefs at Luke: focusing on the culture with a campaign mindset. Individuals interested in joining the troupe, or want to volunteer, call 623-670-4675





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Honorary Commander feature: Jason Klonoski, Morgan Realty Partners

Fighter Country Partnership is proud to feature Jason Klonoski, an alumni member of the Honorary Commanders Program and currently a member of the Blue Blazer Squadron of Fighter Country Partnership. Mr. Klonoski was assigned to the 56th Comptroller Squadron at Luke Air Force Base from 2010 to 2012 and is a highly engaged community leader.

Professional summary

Following a career in professional baseball, Klonoski joined the global real estate firm of Cushman & Wakefield specializing in the representation of landlords, tenants, investors and developers of industrial and high tech, and office properties. During his tenure with C&W, he established himself as a knowledgeable market leader, advising his development clients on underwriting, financing, construction and disposition of over eight million square feet of new development with a value in excess of \$750 million dollars.

Klonoski was promoted to President of Morgan Partners, a Real Estate Investment, Development, and Advisory firm, in 2008 after serving as a regional President. He has exclusively represented and partnered with a prestigious ownership group including Guardian, RREEF, USAA, Cabot Partners, Triton Pacific, Strategic Capital Partners, Principal Global Investors, Kennedy Associates, Transwestern, Koll Development, Panattoni Development, Voit Development, Sunstate, Kitchell Development, EJM Development, The Hewson Companies, HSA Commercial, The Alter Group, and Buzz Oates Enterprises.

He is a member of the National Association of Office and Industrial Professionals (NAIOP). He has served as an officer on the Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Phoenix Executive Council. During his tenure the organization has raised over \$10,000,000 for valley charities.

Klonoski has been a founding board member of four schools serving at risk youth in the Phoenix. He was a Board Member, Business Committee Chair and National Projects Director for a national charter school organization and has built over twenty schools, both public and private.

He served two year as an Honorary Commander at Luke Air Force base and is currently Vice Chairman of the Blue Blazer Squadron, an organization of business leaders, raising money to support the men, women, families and the mission of Luke AFB.

Klonoski is also a member of the Scottsdale Charros. He is a School and Church Board member of Christ Church Lutheran. He was a member for 15 years of Phoenix Country Club and is now a member of Arizona Country Club. He serves on the Arcadia Little League Board. He graduated from the University of Arizona studying Real Estate Finance/ Economics and recently served on the advisory board for the University's School of Finance.

Jason lives in the Arcadia neighborhood in Phoenix, AZ. He is married to Chris, and has three children

"My time as an Honorary Commander was remarkable," said Klonoski, when asked about his experience. "I was struck by the honor and sense of duty each of my host commanders had. It humbled me. They were so selfless. It was refreshing.

"I learned that most of the things I look for and don't see as often as I would like in the real world, I find everyday on the base in our airmen and officers. They are, I believe, the best of what our country offers.



Jason Klonoski Honorary Commander Blue Blazer Squadron Fighter Country Partnership

Honest, responsible, accountable. I am constantly in awe of the men and women I meet.

"I don't know how it could have changed me more. From the airmen to the four wing commanders I have had the privilege to come to know, I have been moved to know them all. I gladly tell the story to all who will listen—the story of Luke AFB. Great young men and women defend our nation, our freedoms, and our way of life, selflessly, willingly, and

More HONORARY on 19







Photo courtesy Fighter Country Partnership

Jason Klonoski participates in the March of the Fallen event held at the Golf Club at Verrado on April, 19 2014. March of the Fallen (MOTF) is a 4.5 mile ruck-march through the White Tank Mountains dedicated to honoring our fallen brothers and sisters who gave the ultimate sacrifice during the war efforts of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and Operation New Dawn (OND). Proceeds from the benefit are donated to the Luke AFB Airmen's Fund and the Knights of Heroes. Thank you to Verrado and all the volunteers for making this event a huge success.

HONORARY: community participation, From 18

loved ones. My respect for them has grown immensely."

Klonoski explained that of all the many experiences while an Honorary Commander, visiting the Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field and the Barry M. Goldwater Range were some of his most memorable times.

"I enjoyed sharing stories with the 56th Fighter Wing Commander and his key staff after a day on the Goldwater Range. I love the traditions and rituals that we are fortunate enough to occasionally witness and sometimes participate in," he said.

Klonoski explained that it has been a few years since he was an Honorary Commander, but that he took both of his squadron commanders to visit his place of work, toured and met his associates to share best practices in HR, morale building, and performance assessment.

He said, "I think we learned quite a bit from each other. I have spoken multiple times to groups of enlisted men and women of various ranks. Sharing with them that the qualities they possess are desirable in the real world, but they must work hard, commit, and follow through.

"As an Honorary Commander and now a Blue Blazer, I have participated in everything you could imagine. A Roll call at the 21st Fighter Squadron, helping drywall Cinderella's and Prince Charming Closet, medical simulations, flown flight simulators, refereed basketball games at Wingman's Day, spoken at Focus 56 and Speed Mentoring.

"I attended multiple change of commands; promotion ceremonies; Air Force Balls; Combat Dining-In's; Haboob Havoc; golf tournaments; served on the Private Organization Council with the past and present Command Chiefs; organized and participated in the March of the Fallen; Knights of Heroes; flown to

sometimes with a real impact to their and visited the F-35 factory; flew in an air refueling tanker and observed F-16s get refueled in mid-flight; flown in the backseat of an F-16; met pilots and maintainers; toured the engine hush house; took a trip to Nellis AFB, Nevada – you name it."

> His participation continues as Klonoski said, "I have mentored folks who are separating as well as volunteered at many events. I've purchased multiple sponsorships for base events, shuttled people during air shows, cooked burgers and steaks for the wing picnic and other gatherings, painted, cleaned, collected trash, and engaged and educated many friends to share the great things happening at Luke."

> Fighter Country Partnership supports culture and tradition at Luke

> Ron Sites, President and Executive Director of Fighter Country Partnership said, "Jason is a perfect example of how important the Blue Blazer Squadron program has become. The program provides new opportunities for great HCCs to remain involved, and Jason has taken the program by its horns and jumped back in full force...with massive results...Thanks for the time and dedication Jason."

Klonoski said, "I was faced with a very unique choice when I was finishing college – apply to Officer Candidate School, or play professional baseball. I have, on occasion, thought what my life would be like had I chosen differently. Since my Honorary Commander experience, I have felt that I didn't step up and do my part. What I did as an Honorary Commander and now as a Blue Blazer, I do humbly, grateful that I can serve the airmen who have made the real commitment. I feel it is imperative to show our service members that there is a grateful nation behind them at home, ready to help in every way we can. That I can play a small part in that is a privilege."



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U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Pedro Mota

Two 56th Civil Engineering Squadron Korte iron work construction contractors install the overhang on the 62nd Fighter Squadron hangar door Dec. 8, 2016, at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. The hangar is scheduled to be completed around June 2017.

F-35 hangar project continues at Luke AFB

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS PEDRO MOTA 56TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

While more and more F-35 Lightning IIs are brought onto Luke Air Force Base, storage and maintenance space becomes crucial for the aircraft's upkeep.

Thunderbolts from the 56th Civil Engineering Squadron are working with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to construct the official 62nd Fighter Squadron hanger to facilitate the maintenance of the squadron's F-35 Lightning II's.

"Design planning started May of 2015," said Bill Harrick, 56th CES F-35 program project manager. "Since then, we have been working hand and hand with the USACE to make sure any coordination effort between the base, core and contractors work smoothly and on time. This 18,205 square feet

hanger is scheduled for completion around June of 2017." and provide external power supply units needed for the aircraft's function checks.

Following the trend of building a more modern aesthetic for new squadrons arriving at Luke, the design of this hanger is uniquely ergonomic.

"The 62nd FS hanger construction project is a new configuration with limited space," Harrick said. "It was a very creative design which allowed us to put four aircraft into one area. Everyone got creative and came up with a good solution to make this hanger the only hanger with dual side entry."

The side entry to the hanger allows four aircraft to be positioned with the engines facing each other and the cockpits facing out toward the entrances.

Also, the hangar comes with utilities for aircraft maintenance.

"Within these hangars, there will be maintenance pits," Harrick said. "These pits provide equipment to aid in air conditioning ducting for the aircrafts and provide external power supply units needed for the aircraft's function checks. The F-35 Lightning II has a much heavier air conditioning requirement than the F-16 so we had to make sure we installed these pits into the hanger."

The stationary pits will be located at each corner of the aircraft for better accessibility.

Luke has housed many aircraft as the largest fighter wing in the Air Force, and will continue to with the arrival of the F-35.

"This project is one of many that has been going since 2010," said Tauny Woo, 56th CES engineering flight chief. "We finished the 62nd Fighter Squadron and its aircraft maintenance unit and are now in the process of completing the hangar. It's a long process and it takes years to complete, but we are slowly making it happen. Luke has always been known as one of the largest training bases and we will continue it with the F-35 program."



A 56th Civil Engineering Squadron general contractor attaches a hangar beam to a crane Dec. 8, 2016, at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.



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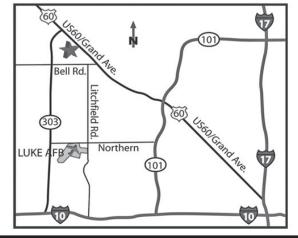
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Photo courtesy Fighter Country Partnership

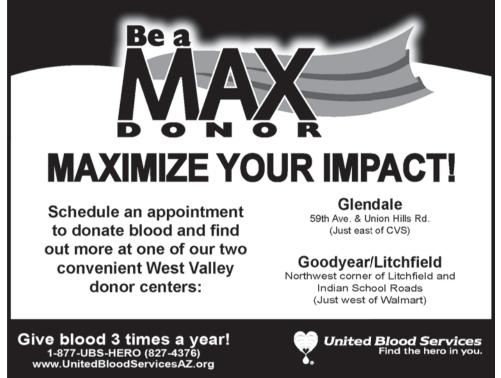
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