

## Thunderbolts celebrate Air Force 70th birthday

By AIRMAN  
1ST CLASS  
CALEB WORPEL  
56TH FIGHTER WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Sept. 18, 1947 is seen as the official birth of the Air Force, which has a rich history that revolutionized how the U.S. military functions as we know it today. Today's Air Force is comprised of more than 680,000 Airmen, made up of active duty, reservists, guardsmen and civilians, all who have answered our nation's call to fly, fight and win.

To showcase the 70 years of barriers the Air Force has overcome to dominate air, space and cyberspace domains, Thunderbolts came together Sept. 9 in observation of

the Air Force's Birthday at the 2017 Luke Air Force Ball.

"Airmen can expect an awesome night of comradery with decorations, unique entertainment and a heritage presentation," said Captain Katrina Baumann, 56th Medical Operation Squadron staff physical therapist and an organizer of this year's ball, said before the event. "This is an opportunity to have fun and celebrate the Luke community, including the numerous organizations in the Phoenix area who support us."

Members of Team Luke contributed to the setup and organization of the event, non-stop, for four months.

"Collectively, we have spent a few hundred hours



planning, designing, researching, attending meetings, and putting together gifts, decorations and many other details of the event," Baumann said. "It's the 70th anniversary!

The ball is going to be a birthday celebration with good music, cool prizes and giveaways."

All Thunderbolts were encouraged to celebrate the courageous Airmen



Visit the website [www.af.mil/70](http://www.af.mil/70) to learn about the history of the U.S. Air Force. Read the story of the first female fighter pilot and the contributions to the Air Force legacy by pilots training at Luke Air Force Base.

that have refined the Air Force mission through their blood and sacrifice, ensuring the unique contributions of Airpower will endure long into the future.

To learn more about the 70th anniversary, visit: [www.af.mil/70](http://www.af.mil/70). On that website, you will be able to go back in time and bring yourself up to date on the U.S. Air Force.

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# From the Desk of Fighter Country Partnership: What we do is awesome

As we go through the final days of the summer, I'd like to reflect on an event Fighter Country Partnership was part of back in July. It's one of my favorite events because it's fun, but more importantly, the outcome is always very positive.

The Back to School Bash has grown year after year and this year was no different. The premise of the Back to School Bash is cool; as the summer ends, the families of Luke Air Force Base are invited to Fowler Park to get a backpack filled with school supplies. How awesome is that? You might think that having an outdoor event at the end of summer in Phoenix might detract from getting kids and parents to the park, but it really doesn't.

For those who have seen Fowler Park, take a second to imagine that large, grassy space filled with carnival rides, a small zoo, fire trucks and many other things. I arrived at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, about an hour and a half before the event was slated to begin. Luke Air Force

Base volunteers were scurrying around putting final touches on their areas.

Families had already started to arrive. The DJ was getting his equipment ready. The carnival ride company was positioning the rides and were starting to blow up the bounce houses. The water arrived in a refrigerator truck; a really good idea for a late summer event. The water will have just a little bit of a chill to it. The final few tents were being raised and the evaporative coolers were being put into place. I helped in any area I could; it was all coming together very nicely.

As it got closer to 5 p.m., the Blue Blazer Squadron volunteers arrived. As is tradition, they volunteer to serve cotton candy and position themselves near the carnival rides and bounce houses. During this time, the school supplies were being positioned on tables and the backpacks were being organized.

All the while, more and more families showed up. The hot dogs were being cooked and chips readied

## COMMENTARY



**Bill Johnston**  
Program Director  
Fighter Country  
Partnership

for the coming masses of kids and adults ready for the evening to begin.

Off to one side of Fowler Park, closer to the Child Development Center, the Luke Air Force Base Explosive Ordnance Disposal team was already starting to show the kids their robots, and a small kiddy-train was taking kids for a ride around the park. We walked around to the volunteers and thanked them for being there. They all replied that it was always a highlight of their summer to be part of the Back to School Bash – always a great time and they enjoyed watching the kids have fun. That is what it's all about.

The DJ got on his microphone and told the families we would be starting soon. Luke Air Force Base leadership arrived and made their rounds to the volunteers and families, thanking them for being there. Everything was in place. The rides, the fire trucks, the small zoo with reptiles were happy in the shade, the cotton candy machines were prepped and ready and the carnival rides sat waiting patiently for the first set of kids to ride them. Big metal tubs were brimming to the top with ice and water.

5:30 p.m. on the dot. The wing leadership were introduced and made their opening remarks. The grassy area adjacent to the stage swelled with hundreds of people. The chaplain got on the microphone and we were off to the races. They had created a passport to accompany the backpacks. As the families passed by the stage, they were given a backpack and were instructed to have fun and then make their way to the opposite side of the park to get their paper, pens, crayons, markers,

pencils and other supplies. We hoped they would not simply get a backpack and leave, but rather stay and enjoy themselves. Although it was hot; that is what they did.

A few of us grabbed a case of water and walked around and handed out bottles of water. Everywhere you looked, there were smiles and kids really having fun. The lines immediately started to form for the spinning carnival rides, and the bounce houses were filled with kids.

As the crowd moved all over the park, we looked and attempted to count how many people were there. We knew how many backpacks there were and we watched as the boxes of backpacks emptied. Within the first few minutes, hundreds of backpacks were now in the hands of parents, or on the backs of children. We estimated, at its height, there were close to 800 kids and adults in Fowler to partake in the fun.

As the sun started to set, I walked back to where the bounce houses were to see how many kids were still there. Not surprisingly,

they were still packed with kids running, jumping and having a great time.

One small boy, maybe 6 years old, ran from one end of the inflatable slide to the other in a continuous loop; his face red, but smiling from ear to ear. His mom was standing next to me and after his 15th loop around the slide, she told him it was time to go home. He stepped off and took her hand so they could walk back to their car. After about 20 seconds, he was back for one more slide. His mom came back, smiled and off they went. After an evening of hot dogs, cotton candy, and ride,s they left with a backpack filled with cool stuff that he would use on his first day of school.

As I look back, I continue to be humbled to be part of this organization. There is a true, tangible joy that I can take from being part of events like the Back to School Bash. Everyone who was there, wanted to be there and, in the end, hundreds of kids left with school supplies. Again, as I said in the beginning, how awesome is that?

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Fighter Country Partnership

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## Glendale Chamber of Commerce supports Red and Blue Bash

Two years ago, the Glendale Chamber of Commerce Military & Veterans Affairs Committee assisted with supporting and attending the first Red & Blue Bash held at Luke Air Force Base.

This year, Glendale Law Enforcement Association Charities, in conjunction with the Local 493 Glendale Firefighters Charities, Luke Air Force Base 56th Special Forces Squadron Defenders Advisory Council, and Luke Firefighters Association, will host the now annual public safety holiday party. The event will be held in November with more than 500 expected to attend from the above and supported organizations.

The semi-formal event features dining, dancing, entertainment, raffle and auction. The Bash will serve as a charitable fundraiser for several local public safety non-profit organizations including the Glendale Police Explorers, Glendale Law Enforcement Association Charities, Glendale Firefighter Charities and the 56th Special Forces Squadron Defenders Advisory Council. Each of these charities have missions to include helping the families of injured and fallen public safety employees and preparing teens and young adults for careers in public



safety. They also provide morale and wellness events for active duty military, sworn public safety and civilian counterparts.

There will also be a Red & Blue Golf Tournament on Sept. 25, 7 a.m. shotgun start, at Arrowhead Country Club. The cost of \$55 per golfer includes lunch and green fees. Sponsorships are also available. For questions and registration, contact Ofc. Kris Steffa via email at [secretary@azlea.com](mailto:secretary@azlea.com).

Every day, first responders are exposed to some of the worst events in and around the area. The Glendale Chamber's Military and Veterans Affairs Committee is honored and proud to support and assist to help serve as a stress relief and a reminder that the business community is in support of all first responders.

For more information, contact Sgt. Jeff Turney, Glendale Police Department and chairman of the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, at [jturney@glendaleaz.com](mailto:jturney@glendaleaz.com).

## Get ready for Thunderbolt Cup 2017

By AIRMAN  
1ST CLASS  
CALEB WORPEL  
56TH FIGHTER WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Thunderbolts are scheduled to participate in a two-day, multi-event Olympic style competition testing their physical and mental readiness, as well as offering a fun time to break away from their daily routines Sept. 28 and 29.

Luke is hosting its second annual Thunderbolt Cup, featuring numerous competitions and activities for Airmen and their families to participate in.

An opening ceremony is scheduled to be held on the flightline 6 a.m. Sept. 28.

"The two-day event was introduced to the base by Gen. Leonard (Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Brook Leonard) and brought all the squadrons across the base together for a competitive, friendly Olympic-style event to see who was the best," said 2nd Lt. Yoarmerby Gomez, 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron Armament Flight Commander, and

an organizer of this year's Thunderbolt Cup. "Last year, the 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron took the title and hopes to remain the champions this year as well."

The event will include something for everyone, including basketball, ping pong, tug of war, hockey shoot-out, poker, softball, corn hole, video games and many, many more games and entertainment.

Units create teams who accumulate points throughout the competition. The team with the most points at the end of the two-day event will be declared the winner.

"Everyone grows closer and works more cohesively as a unit while they prepare for these events," Gomez said. "Ultimately, this is a great way to boost morale,

as everyone unwinds and has fun participating in something they have a passion for, while taking pride in the squadrons they come from. These events, as well as the follow-on live music celebration this year, will certainly be something you and your family will not want to miss."

The event will culminate with closing ceremonies and a live music celebration in Fowler Park 4 p.m. Sept. 29.

All Thunderbolts are encouraged to come out to participate and help support their fellow wingmen.

To see the full schedule of events and to register to participate, or volunteer, use the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/thunderbolt-cup-events-tickets-37441795418#tickets>.



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# SRP receives 2017 Freedom Award

One of 15 companies honored for support of National Guard, Reserve Program

Salt River Project was one of 15 companies honored with the 2017 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award for support of employees who also are members of the National Guard or Reserve.

The award, presented Aug. 25 by Deputy Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan in an annual ceremony at the Pentagon, is the highest form of recognition given by the U.S. government to civilian employers for their support of guard and reserve members and their families.

The only Arizona-based company honored, SRP was recognized for the role it plays in the nation’s defense and its above-and-beyond support for its military employees. SRP was nominated for the 2017 award by the Army National Guard.

Associate General Manager Michael O’Connor, who headed the SRP contingent at the awards ceremony, said SRP is proud to support its military employees and enable them to serve the nation.

SRP provides military employees full pay and benefits up to a rolling two years. O’Connor said SRP has also established the Joint Apprenticeship Corporate Committee, which authorizes additional hiring points only available



to National Guard, Reserve and veteran apprenticeship candidates, and supports SRPVETS, an Employee Interest Group that hosts Veterans Day and Memorial Day events for employees and retirees as well as brown bag sessions during the year.

“We strive to make life easier for the families of our deployed military employees, holding dinner nights for spouses, and offering help with tasks such as lawn work, painting, auto repair and more,” said O’Connor. “Also, our CEO, General Manager Mark Bonsall, personally calls deployed employees to check on their well-being and to assure them that their jobs are secure.”

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# PROUD TO SUPPORT LUKE AIR FORCE BASE

# Maricopa County partners with Air Force to expand radio coverage

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors is partnering with the United States Air Force on a project that allows the county to expand public safety radio coverage across more rural parts of the county. In August, the board unanimously approved an easement agreement allowing the county to place a transmitter site within the Gila Bend Auxiliary Air Field near Gila Bend.

“This is another important step in our attempt to reduce or eliminate drops in radio frequency coverage for law enforcement across the county,” said Supervisor Clint Hickman, District 4. “We are grateful to the leadership at Luke Air Force Base for partnering with us to help make the community safer.”

When the system goes live in 2018, the site will provide public safety radio coverage to the Town of Gila Bend and its surrounding area.

“Luke Air Force Base is proud to partner with Maricopa County on this important public safety project,” said Brig. Gen. Brook Leonard, Luke Air Force Base commander.



**Brig. Gen. Brook Leonard**  
56th Fighter Wing  
Commander

“Operating the largest fighter wing in the world in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area requires a steadfast focus on safety, and not only do we work in the community but our families live in this community. So, we are excited to partner with the county and local authorities to continue to strengthen our public safety network.”

This easement is a part of a larger project that began in 2013, when the Maricopa

County Board of Supervisors approved a contract with Motorola Solutions to construct a new public safety radio system. The goal is to provide comprehensive radio coverage across the 9,200 square miles of the county.

The system will eventually have 45 transmitter sites and five dispatch centers. A big challenge has been acquiring the land needed to place the transmitters. This has required Maricopa County to build partnerships with other governmental agencies, so the land can be used in a respectful and mutually beneficial way. The easement involving the Gila



**Clint Hickman**  
Supervisor, Dist. 4  
Maricopa County  
Board of Supervisors

Bend Auxiliary Air Field site is the latest example of that type of agreement.

“Cell coverage can be a challenge in a county this vast, especially in more rural areas. So, two-way radios are often the most effective way for emergency responders or other agencies to communicate,” Hickman said. “This project is important because it helps citizens, it helps law enforcement, and it allows Maricopa County to comply with federal law.”

Several county agencies will use this system, including the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office, Adult and Juvenile Probation, Department of Transportation, Flood Control District, and other public works departments.

## FREEDOM: award for support,

From 5

The Freedom Award was established in 1996 by the Department of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) to draw attention to the support provided by the Nation’s employer community. More than 17,000 nominations have been received since 2011. This year’s recipients were selected from 3,064 nominations submitted by Guardsmen and Reservists.

ESGR represents large and small employers from almost every industry, as well as from state and local governments. It received nominations for employers in all 50 states, Guam-Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia.

The annual Freedom Award ceremony included leaders from the ESGR, previous

award recipients, current and former Department of Defense personnel, congressional representatives, and guard members and reservists and their families and friends.

Shanahan said the 2017 award recipients represent the best of the best and come in all shapes and sizes, from 40 employees to 150,000; from Georgia to Arizona, Wyoming to Massachusetts.

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# Annual Stand Up for Veterans Sept. 23 at GCC

Glendale’s fifth annual “Stand Up for Veterans” will be held 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 23 at Glendale Community College, 6000 W. Olive Ave. More than 1,000 veterans have attended the community outreach event in previous years.

“The reason I started this event was to help struggling veterans regain their dignity and pride. Stand Up does just that,” said Glendale Mayor Jerry P. Weiers, who initiated the Glendale Stand Up event five years ago. “They can potentially walk into the event without a job and bogged down with legal issues, and they can walk out of the event gainfully employed with, essentially, a clean slate. That truly can change someone’s life for the better.”

A new offering at this year’s event will be Glendale Community College’s Veteran Services Center. The center provides veteran and military students and their families one-on-one help getting into college and staying on

the path of success. The VSC is a one-stop facility offering services, including admissions, financial aid, advisement, career services, referrals and specific military-related resources.

“Glendale Community College, one of the top nationally ranked veteran-friendly schools, is proud to be part of such an important event to support our veterans,” said Dr. Teresa Leyba Ruiz, Interim GCC President. “It’s not just about veterans, it’s about their families, too - all of those who have made sacrifices - and GCC is happy to be part of it.”

As many as 50 employers who are presently hiring will have representatives and interviewers at the event, with many hiring veterans that very day. Advisors will also offer professional resume-building suggestions and other job search assistance.

A local committee representing city, state and federal agencies, local businesses and non-profit partners executes Glendale



Mayor Jerry Weiers flips burgers during the 2016 Stand Up For Veterans event at Glendale Community College. This year's event starts at 8 a.m. and continues to 1 p.m. at the college.

Photo courtesy City of Glendale

Stand Up for Veterans. At the event, veterans will have the opportunity to gain employment on the spot and may access a wide array of services. Organizers are now accepting

business, non-profit and government agency partner applications.

Another critical service on hand that day is access to court and legal services. Glendale City Court Pre-

siding Judge Elizabeth Finn will be representing more than 18 courts of Arizona municipal courts where veterans with criminal and civil cases may be able to satisfy outstanding

court fines and fees by performing a community service work project. Veterans with active arrest warrants on criminal misdemeanors can have those warrants quashed.

Judges representing many additional Justice Courts in Maricopa County will also be present to offer similar opportunities to reduce or eliminate court fines through community service. Glendale’s Community Services Department will provide transportation from Glendale Community College to historic Sahuaro Ranch Park, where the community beautification work service project will take place.

The Arizona Motor Vehicle Division will be present to advise veterans of requirements for reinstatement of their driving privileges and other MVD business. The City of Glendale prosecutor’s office will also be on hand. Additional free legal services will include consultation with

**MORE STAND UP ON 9**



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STAND UP: Help for veterans before they need it, From 8

members of the State Bar of Arizona on all civil matters and with attorneys from the Maricopa County Public Defender’s Office on felony matters.

“Having someone come to the event with a suspended license, which prevents them securing appropriate employment, is a challenge, but that situation can become extremely rewarding,” said the Honorable Elizabeth Finn, presiding judge of Glendale City Court. “They complete community restitution benefiting the City of Glendale and leave with a valid license. This allows them to better provide for themselves and their families. We take pride in being able to provide all these services at Stand Up for Veterans,” Finn said.

Sandy Coor Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1433 in Glendale serves as the non-profit administrator of the event, working in partnership with the committee.

Ed Besta, returning Stand Up for Veterans Committee Chairman, and Senior Vice Commander of Glendale's VFW Post 1433, said, “Stand Up for Veterans supports the VFW motto: 'No One Does More For Veterans,' and our VFW Sandy Coor Post membership is especially proud of its remarkable 91-year history of supporting veterans in our local community.”

Primary funding for the event is provided by Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services through a grant from the Veteran’s Donation Fund.

Veterans can apply for health-care

and other benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and social service agencies.

The City of Glendale’s Community Action Program will also be in attendance. The CAP office partners regularly with U.S. Vets to assist veterans in need. Non-profits will assist with family and personal matters.

Although offering social assistance, Weiers emphasizes that this event differs from “Stand Down” events which provide needed supplies and services specifically to homeless veterans through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

“These are people who have served our country, and they deserve an opportunity to be given a second chance with the tools to succeed, so our goal is to reach them before they hit rock bottom,” said Weiers. “If they attend our Stand Up event, hopefully they’ll never need the services of a Stand Down event.”

The Military & Veteran Affairs Committee of the Glendale Chamber of Commerce is actively promoting the event. Credit Union West and other local businesses have committed in-kind and funding support for Glendale’s Stand Up for Veterans. Chapter 20 of the Disabled American Veterans Department will provide complimentary lunch to all veterans in attendance. Rolfs Salon has also supported the event by providing free haircuts to participants.

For more information, or to become a community partner, go to [www.GlendaleStandUp.org](http://www.GlendaleStandUp.org).

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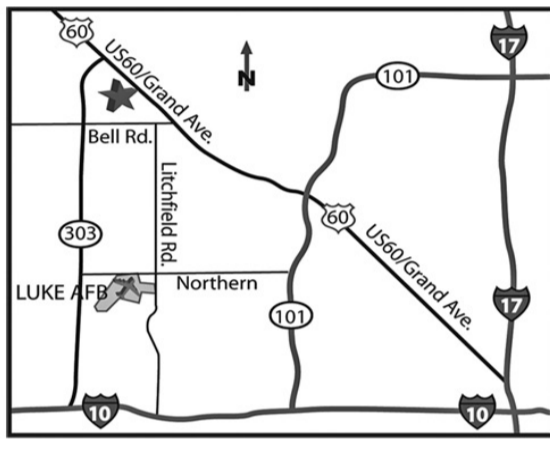


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# Military life leads to success in transition

By **CAROLYN DRYER**  
EDITOR

Sometimes, what you do after your military service depends on what you did while on active duty. But, for Glendale Police detective Brad Eith, working the streets of the fourth-largest city in Arizona is a piece of cake compared to what he did in the Army National Guard from March 1999 until June 2011.

Eith served three tours in Iraq, where he started in avionics, then switched to being a convoy escort. His job was to protect the drivers bringing fuel, ammunition and food to outposts. For two deployments, he was a gunner and sergeant. Because of his scout experience, he was a vehicle commander on his third deployment. His troops cleared routes and behind them, 60 to 100 semis followed.

During his first two deployments, 2003 to 2005, Eith's vehicle was hit twice by roadside bombs. The second time, he suf-

fered eye damage and was flown to "Camp Cedar." He recovered, and after a few weeks, he was back on duty.

Following his first two deployments, in 2007, Eith was hired by the Glendale Police Department. His last overseas deployment was June 2010 until April 2011.

Eith's colleague at Glendale PD, Sgt. Jeff Turney, served in the U.S. Air Force from October 1979 until November 2000. Like his job with the police department, Turney was in law enforcement.

His career started in Biloxi, Miss. Then he spent three years in Lakenheath, England. Back to the states, he was sent to Vance, Okla., a fighter training base, then to Kunsan, South Korea for a year, 100 miles out of the fence line (38th Parallel).

"Korea was volatile at that time, 1988-89," Turney said.

From Korea, he was transferred to Williams Air Force Base, and remained



**Officer Brad Eith**  
Glendale Police Department

there until it closed in 1993. The other side of the country was his next post, Maguire AFB in New Jersey, where he helped deploy military forces to Europe.

"By then, I became a law enforcement superintendent," Turney said.

In 1998, he attended the FBI Academy, worked for the CIA, and investigated criminal cases. Others, he said, did counter intelligence. He decided to retire in 2000.

"I met my wife while I was at Williams," Turney said. "We married in 1998.



**Sgt. Jeff Turney**  
Glendale Police Department

I couldn't tell her where I worked for two years."

Eith is in his third year as an advisor for the Glendale Community College Law Enforcement Academy. But his primary duty is as a gun violence investigator. He is also part of the police department honor guard and a member of the SWAT team, whenever needed.

Turney was a domestic violence detective four or five years, then came back to the streets as a patrol sergeant. He also teaches criminal justice online for Aspen Univer-

sity, Colorado.

Both officers commented on the differences between their military and civilian employment, acknowledging there is discipline in both careers.

Eith said, "Everything starts to change as time progresses. Accountability changed, (there's) a participation award type of program. Even active duty now, people have rights to a cell phone, time outs."

He said the only thing different about the two careers is, when you're in the military, once you're overseas, you're thankful for being alive, having a roof over your head. Then, you come back to the U.S. and see someone suing McDonald's over hot coffee, and there seems to be a sense of entitlement.

"It's hard to understand at first," Eith said. "Awesome rights and liberties, and take them for granted."

He watched Iraqi citizens jump on garbage trucks, which contained leftover food items, and

throw out bags to friends along the way. Then, he came back home to the U.S. to hear people complain they have no iPhone.

"It makes you stop and think," Eith said.

Both men respect their positions, with Eith saying, "Sergeant is higher than doctor. Anybody can go to school and be a doctor. But to be a sergeant, you gotta earn it."

Turney, who has a Ph.D, said, "To me, respect is everything and you have to earn that. It's not given to you."

In the military, you do what you are told to do. Here, Eith said, you're able to comment, and he has seen officers argue with their sergeant.

Eith and Turney agreed it's a different generation, the YZ. They have to live with it, and both know that with their history and experiences during their military careers, they will do more than live with it. They will survive - and thrive.

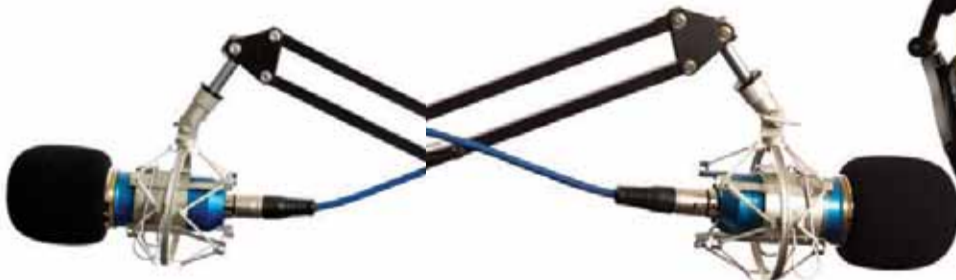
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# Thunderbolt of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Kyle Wilson

By **AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CALEB WORPEL**  
**56TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

He starts every morning with a 4 a.m. wake-up, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, pre-workout drink and an intense workout.

Tech. Sgt. Kyle Wilson, 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment support NCO in charge, has been awarded as one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year and attributes his success to his rigorous fitness routine and family.

"I was overwhelmed with emotion and gratitude when I found out I was selected for this award," Wilson said. "You don't wake up every day and think you will have an opportunity as great as this."

The Florida native is approaching his 10-year anniversary in his Air Force career. From a command chief executive to an Airmen Leadership School instructor, Wilson explains he has utilized every opportunity the Air Force has brought his way.

"I have always tried to surround myself with people who push me to change, become better and step outside of my comfort zone," Wilson explained. "My mentors and leaders who presented me with opportunities are, without a doubt, part of the reason why I have been selected for this award."

Wilson's contributions to the Air Force chief of staff's second focus area of strengthening joint leaders and teams was a pivotal reason for his selection. During his four years at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Wilson was an ALS instructor and found innovative ways to not only train Airmen, but also incorporate U.S. Army Soldiers into enlisted professional military education programs. Wilson also helped advise and build the first NCO course for the International European Air Force Academy, among many other accomplishments.

June 30, just six days

prior to his scheduled arrival to Luke Air Force Base, Wilson received a phone call notifying him that he had won the award. He was working out in the gym when Brig. Gen. Richard Moore, 86th Airlift Wing Commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Aaron Bennett, 86th Airlift Wing Command Chief, called to notify him.

"There wasn't a better place to learn that I had won the award than the gym," Wilson said. "I was overcome with emotion. I had to take a moment and reflect. It was an amazing feeling."

Wilson has returned to his original career field in AGE at Luke.

"Stepping into a new role here is exciting," he said. "There is opportunity to meet, teach and learn from a whole new group of people. I am thrilled to be a part of building the future of Airpower within the F-35A Lightning II program and I am driven to keep pushing our team forward to enhance the future success of Luke."



Photo by U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Caleb Worpel

**Tech. Sgt. Kyle Wilson, 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron Aerospace Ground Equipment support NCO in charge, poses for a portrait at Luke Air Force Base. Wilson has been awarded as one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year out of approximately 290,000 eligible enlisted total force Airmen.**

Wilson explained that a consistent fitness routine is what keeps him grounded and focused to be the best Airman possible.

"Working out allows me to step away from my daily

life and put myself into a different mind space," Wilson said. "I like to be up early and get a start to my day before most people even open their eyes. I can burn off any stress I might be carrying with me before the day starts, allowing me to better focus myself at work to get the job done. It keeps me healthy, physically and mentally."

Wilson's wife, Master Sgt. Nalani Wilson, 56th Medical Support Squadron logistics flight chief, has played a vital role in supporting Wilson through his career. They share a passion for working out and contributing to Air Force culture.

Along with his step-daughter Aziya, son, Cameron, and daughter, Kylie, Wilson explained that together with fitness, his family is a major contributor to his success.

"I actually met my wife doing my favorite thing – working out in the gym," Wilson said. "She is a huge supporter in my life and our children's. She has been there for all of us during every step we have taken

forward in our lives. Family always comes first and they motivate me to become better every day."


Approximately 290,000 enlisted total force Airmen were eligible to become an Outstanding Airman of the Year. Entries are selected from a board formed of command chief master sergeants from each major command and reviewed by the Air Force chief of staff.

Wilson, along with the other 11 Outstanding Airmen, are scheduled to attend a week-long Air Force Association convention in Washington, D.C. this month. They will have a banquet held in their honor, have opportunities to meet and learn from senior leadership, will earn the Outstanding Airman badge and also be serving on the AFA enlisted council for one year.


"Speaking positively on behalf of the Air Force is something I regularly do," Wilson said. "This gives me the opportunity to take it to a larger scale and, hopefully, improve the lives of Airmen across the force."

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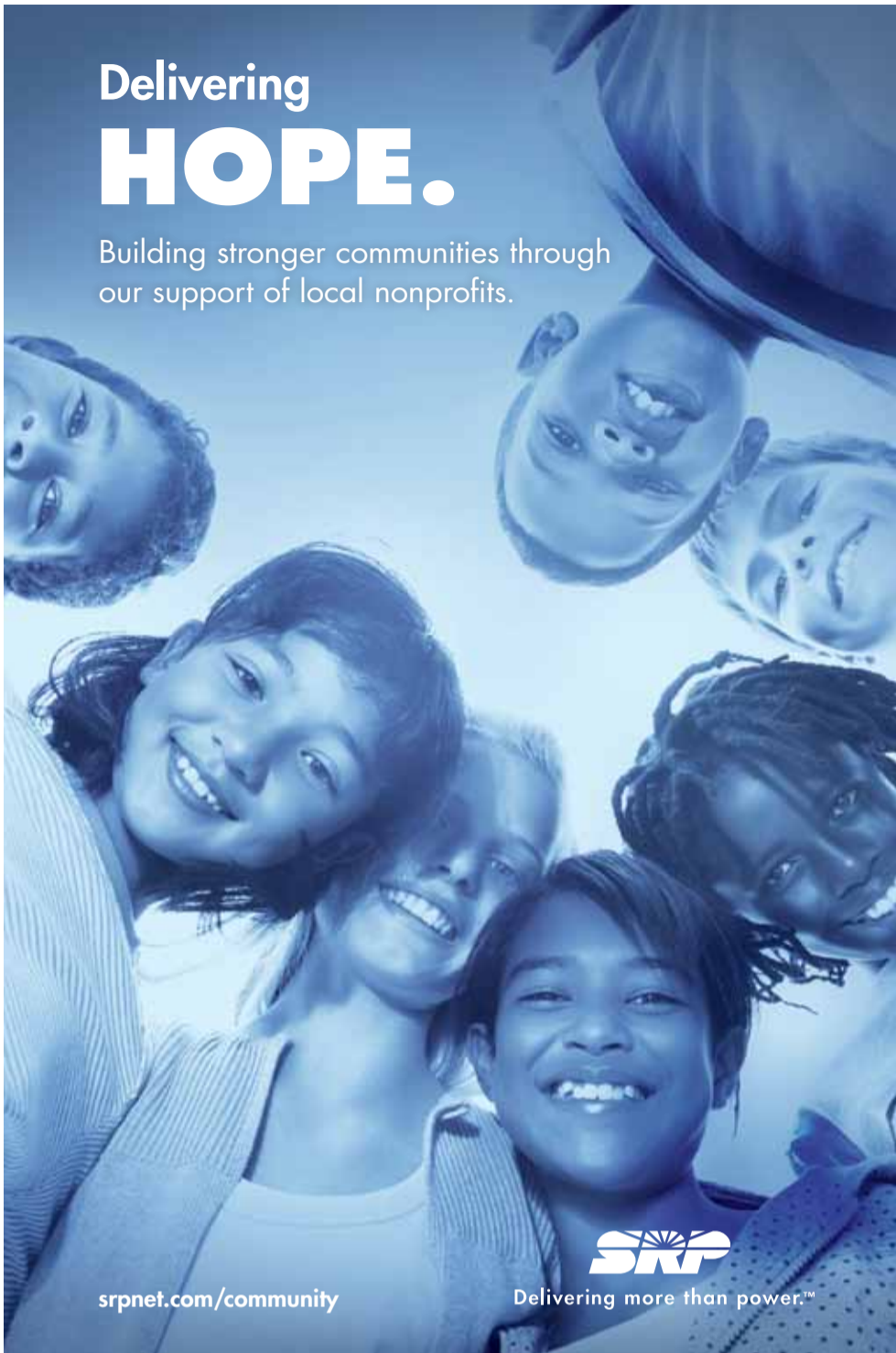
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# Spiritual Maintenance Center opens to all Airmen

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS  
CALEB WORPEL  
56TH FIGHTER WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Luke Air Force Base held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the Spiritual Maintenance Center Aug. 16, 2017.

The Spiritual Maintenance Center was established for Airmen to have a place to speak with base chaplains and become spiritually strengthened.

The new center offers a relaxing environment with snacks and refreshments for Airmen to enjoy while taking a break from their normal work environment.

In attendance to the ceremony was Kevin Connaughton, Arizona Coyotes hockey player, along with Brig. Gen. Brooke Leonard, 56th Fighter Wing commander.

“It’s not just the pilots that allow us to defend freedom and justice,” Leonard said. “Airpower starts in places like this



Chaplain  
James Lanford

and continues because of the collective effort from folks who volunteer their time here.”

Announcing the event was Capt. James Lanford, 56th Fighter Wing base chaplain.

“The Spiritual Maintenance Center was established to give Airmen a place to rest and be refreshed both physically and spiritually,” Lanford SAID. “The Center is also a great place to connect with fellow Airmen, veterans and retirees who

volunteer.”

Lanford encourages all Airmen to be spiritually fit to endure the struggles that life can present.


“I’d like to encourage Airmen even outside of the environment of the Spiritual Maintenance Center to live out their faith traditions,” Lanford said. “This will give them a sense of purpose and value that will help them solidify the spiritual fitness domain in their lives.”

With the new centralized location of the Spiritual Maintenance Center, the base chaplains look forward to the new opportunities that the center will provide.

“We’re excited about the opportunities that the center will present to the newer Airmen and we want everyone to know where we’re located and that they’re welcome,” Lanford said.

The new Spiritual Maintenance Center is located in building 905 and is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.


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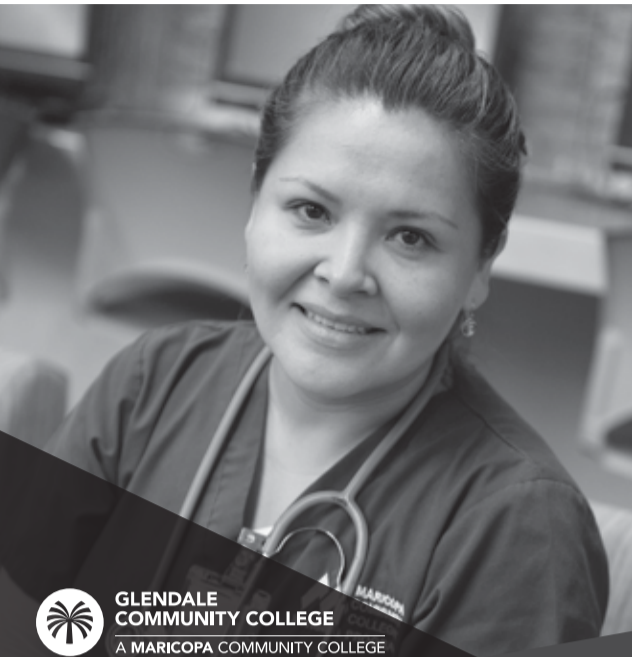


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# Police training benefits Luke AFB and local communities

By **AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CALEB WORPEL**  
**56TH FIGHTER WING**  
**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

The cities of Surprise, Peoria, El Mirage and members of Team Luke participated in the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) providing hands-on, realistic training.

“This is the first time we have taken multiple agencies outside the scope of the academy to assist one another with this type of training,” said Sergeant Chris Culp, El Mirage Police Department. “The training is very valuable by using the resources and networking with the other departments. Not every agency has these capabilities so teaming up with everyone makes this unique.”

The course included different segments of backing, braking, pursuit driving and high-risk stops all of which increase the survivability and safety of the agencies



Photos by Airman 1st Class Caleb Worpel

Police officers from around Maricopa County stage an arrest during an exercise as part of an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course held Aug. 21 at Luke Air Force Base. The EVOC training provided hands-on, realistic training to the 56th Security Forces Squadron as well as local police departments.

involved in emergency vehicle operations.

“We try to encourage our security forces members to get out and get involved with our local police officers as much as possible,” said Staff Sgt. Ryan Kneafsey, 56th SFS unit trainer. “This allows us to build upon skills we have been taught and helps us to respond to any potential situations we might encounter on base.”

The training lasted until Aug. 25, with several other




trainings scheduled for the future.

“Everyone benefits from this training,” Culp said. “Not only will the neighboring agencies and Luke Air Force base ben-

efit, but the surrounding communities will as well. This training could not have been done without the cooperation of Luke Air Force base and the local departments.”




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- Multi- Point Inspection -

- Fluid Top-Off -

- Battery Test -

- Filter Check -

- Belts and Hoses Check -

\$39.95

Up to 5 quarts of Motorcraft oil and Motorcraft oil filter. Taxes, diesel vehicles and disposal fees extra. Hybrid battery test excluded. See service advisor for details \*

MOTORCRAFT BRAKE PADS  
INSTALLED

\$99.95

Per Axle

Taxes extra. Pads or shoes on most vehicles. Some exclusions may apply. Does not include turning rotors.\*

TIRE GUARANTEE

We'll meet any price on the 13 major tire brands we sell...

Requires presentation of competitor's current price ad/offer on exact tire sold by Quick Lane within 30 days after purchase. See Sanderson Quick Lane for details.\*

MOTORCRAFT WARRANTY: 2 YEARS | UNLIMITED MILEAGE

Motorcraft parts are original equipment for Ford, Lincoln and Mercury vehicles and help restore new-vehicle-like performance and reliability. And now they're covered for a full two years and unlimited mileage. Even labor cost are included.  
Labor may have a limit. See your service advisor for a copy of the limited warranty.\*

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\*Offers good at Sanderson Ford Quick Lane Departments. Offers do not include taxes, shop supplies or disposal fees. Customers must present coupon at time of write up to receive offer. Offers not valid with any other offer or against previous charges. All offers expire at close of business 12/31/17.

FLEET SERVICE CENTER | EXCEPTIONAL BUSINESS SERVICE

State of the Art Service Department | Parts Sales & Delivery | Quick Lane For Fast Repairs | Powertrain Warehouse | Parts Warehouse | Dedicated Fleet Sales Specialist | Dedicated Wholesale Parts Professionals | Arizona's Only Heavy Truck Dealer Equipped to Handle All Your Service Needs

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Safari Tours • Shows • Zipline Tour\*  
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WILD SAVINGS \$20 VALUE! (\$4 OFF Per Person-Limit 5)

Valid on general admission only. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offers. Must present this coupon or use promo code LAFB17 when purchasing online. Kids 2 and under are free.  
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# Red & Blue Golf Tournament

September 25, 2017

6:30 am - Registration  
7:00 am - Shotgun Start

**Arrowhead Country Club**  
19888 N. 73rd Avenue  
Glendale, AZ 85308

**Entry Fee:** \$55 Per Player  
(lunch & green fee's included)  
4 Person Scramble

**Prizes:** Men's & Women's  
Longest Drive, Closest to the  
Pin, 1st, 2nd & Last Team,  
50/50 Raffle

**Hosted By:**  
Glendale Law Enforcement  
Association Charities

**Sponsored By:**  
56SFS Defenders Advisory  
Council  
Luke Fire Fighters Association  
Glendale Fire Charities

**For questions or to  
register contact:**  
Ofc. Kris Steffa at  
secretary@azglea.com



*Supported by the  
Glendale Chamber of Commerce  
Military & Veterans Affairs Committee*

## Luke honors Gold Star family

Brig. Gen. Brook Leonard, 56th Fighter Wing commander, talks with Sherry and Nick Fresques at Luke Air Force Base Aug. 18. The Fresques' son, Capt. Jeremy Fresques, 23rd Special Tactics Squadron special tactics officer, was killed in action in Iraq in 2005. The Fresques have become the first gold star family at Luke to apply for the Defense Biometric



Photo by USAF Senior Airman James Hensley

Identification System and Airman and Family Readiness Center Card initiative, allowing them access to the base resources.

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

U.S. AIR FORCE U.S. ARMY U.S. NAVY U.S. MARINE CORPS U.S. COAST GUARD U.S. SPACE FORCE

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## Do you know what's on your credit report?

Your credit plays a major role in your purchasing power. Lenders review credit reports and scores to determine a borrowers' capacity for larger purchases such as an auto loan or mortgage. According to Experian, a score above 700 usually suggests good credit management<sup>1</sup>. When borrowing, a lower credit score can mean higher rates on loans.

The information on your report can impact your score, your loan qualification and how much you will have to pay to borrow money. It's not uncommon to find errors on your credit report. It is a good practice to carefully review your credit report annually.

If you spot an error, here are some tips for correcting errors on your credit report:

1. Tell the reporting agency, in writing, what information you think is inaccurate. Include copies of documentation supporting your claim (never include the originals). State the facts of your dispute clearly. You can dispute your credit report online on each credit reporting agency's website, or you can send your letter via certified mail with a return receipt requested along with a copy of your credit report highlighting the inaccurate information.

2. Tell the information provider (the person or company that provided the infor-



mation to the credit reporting agency), in writing, that you dispute the item(s) on your report. Use the address in your report; if no address is given call the provider and ask for the address. Send your letter via certified mail with a return receipt requested.

3. If the information is reported to more than one bureau, contact all three bureaus. The three credit reporting agencies do not share information with one another. Unless you are changing the information with your actual lender, you will have to contact all three credit reporting agencies to update your status.

To learn more about your credit, visit [www.cuwest.org](http://www.cuwest.org) or visit a Credit Union West branch. Every branch has a friendly team ready to help you review your credit report and offer tips on how to increase your score and save money. A Credit Union West branch is located on base at Luke behind the Main Exchange.

<sup>1</sup>Source: [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)

## Airman & Family Readiness Center hosts job fair

Looking for a job? Make sure you attend the job fair hosted by the Airman & Family Readiness Center 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 11 at Club Five Six, 14000 W. Eagle St., Building 161, Luke Air Force Base.

The job fair is open to all military personnel, military spouses, family members, retirees, DoD civilians, or contractors, anyone with access to Luke AFB.

Network with more than 60 local and national employers. Take part in on-site interviews with representatives from airline industries, health care, and top government agencies. To learn more, visit [56fss.fsfr@us.af.mil](mailto:56fss.fsfr@us.af.mil), or call 623-856-6550.

# AIRMAN & FAMILY READINESS CENTER

## MILITARY MEMBERS, DOD CIVILIANS\*, RESERVE, GUARD, MILITARY RETIREES & ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS

### Annual Job Fair, October 11, 2017

10am – 2pm, Club Five Six  
14000 West Eagle St., Bldg. 161, Luke AFB

#### SERVICES AVAILABLE:

- Transition Services (Active Duty to Civilian)
  - Mandatory Separation\Retirement\Preseperation Counseling
  - Mandatory 5 Day Department of Labor TAP Employment Workshop
  - Employment Assistance
  - SBA quarterly Boots to Business Workshop
  - Higher Education Training
  - Resume Writing and Federal Employment Workshops
- Discovery Center - Resources for relocation, transition, employment, housing, schools, and more!
- AMVETS – Provides medical records screening and assistance with VA disability claims
- Personal Development Information & Resources
  - Like us on Facebook: Luke A&FRC
- Military & Family Life Counselor Assistance
- Financial Counseling Education
- Relocation & Sponsorship Services
- School Liaison Officer - Addresses educational issues involving military children and youth in the local school community

5 Day Dept. of Labor TAP Employment Workshop held Monthly

**Contact us for further information: (623) 856-6550**  
**Email: [56fss.fsfr@luke.af.mil](mailto:56fss.fsfr@luke.af.mil)**  
**7282 N. 137th Ave. Bldg.1113 Luke AFB, AZ. 85309**  
**"We're never the wrong place to go!"**

\*Limited Services for DoD Civilians and their families

# ★ LET FREEDOM RING ★

Youngtown proudly supports Luke Air Force Base and those brave men and women putting themselves in harm's way protecting our freedoms. Ongoing fulfillment of Luke's mission is critical to the region, the state and the nation.

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623-298-1200 or [RodeoKia.com](http://RodeoKia.com)

(I-10 & 99th Ave, in the Avondale Automall)

**KIA** | Genuine Parts

### BUY 3 TIRES GET THE 4<sup>TH</sup> FOR \$1

Kia Vehicles only. See Dealership for Details, Limited Time Offer

"NO BULL" SINCE 1951

#### LUBE, OIL & FILTER

# \$19<sup>95</sup>

**INCLUDES:**  
Complimentary multi-point inspection, wash & vacuum.

\*Must present coupon at time of write up. May not be combined with any other offer or special. Up to 5 quarts. Synthetic oil slightly higher. Valid at Rodeo Kia in Avondale. Limit 1 per customer. Tax and environmental fees extra. Expires 12/13/17

#### FRONT BRAKE SPECIAL

# \$189<sup>95</sup>

Replace pads and resurface rotors

\*Must present coupon at time of purchase. Limit 1 per person. Coupon does not apply to prior purchases. Valid only at Rodeo Kia.. Kia vehicle only. Rear brake pads additional. Offer expires 12/13/17

#### CABIN FILTER AND AIR FILTER

# \$57<sup>95</sup>

Installed

\*Tax & environmental fees extra. Not valid with any other offer. Must present this at time of purchase. Limit 1/person. Offer does not apply to prior purchase. Other restrictions may apply. Expires 12/13/17 at Rodeo Kia in Avondale

#### KIA SERVICE

**SUPER SAVER... \$PEND:**

\$150 - \$200	Get \$20 OFF!
\$201 - \$250	Get \$25 OFF!
\$251 - \$300	Get \$30 OFF!
\$301 - \$400	Get \$40 OFF!
\$400 or MORE	Get \$50 OFF!

\*Not valid with any other offer. Must present this at time of purchase. Limit 1/person. Offer does not apply to prior purchase. Other restrictions may apply. Valid at Rodeo Kia in Avondale. Offer herein exp 12/13/17

#### GET A FREE OIL CHANGE

**BUY 4 OIL CHANGES GET THE 5<sup>TH</sup> FREE**

# 15%

Mon: Senior Day  
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(active duty or retired ID required)  
Cannot be combined with any other offer. Max discount \$100.

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**\$388**

**Mid-Century Modern Sofa \$388** (1A-3216S)  
Available in Cement, Charcoal and Navy | Loveseat \$298 | Chair \$198 | Cocktail Ottoman \$118  
Chairside Table \$98 (28484) | End Table with 1-Drawer \$138 (28482)  
8' x 10' Area Rug \$168 (163-AP5588-81) | 24" Table Lamp \$64<sup>98</sup> (107-405015)





Contour Memory Foam Pillow (H-CONT)  
**\$18**



8" Premier Memory Foam Mattress (HLTH-8-50M)  
**\$289**

Twin Mattress \$169/Set \$249  
Twin XL Mattress \$179/Set \$264  
Full Mattress \$229/Set \$329  
Queen Mattress \$289/Set \$399  
King Mattress \$359/Set \$529



**Bloomington Upholstered Queen Bed \$398** (1948-QBED)  
Includes Headboard Footboard and Rails  
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Includes Headboard Storage Footboard and Rails (Mattress and comforter set not included)  
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Bonded Leather Sofa  
**\$299**

**Bonded Leather Sofa \$299** (2A-9071S)  
Loveseat \$249 | Chair \$199 | 3-Pack of Tables \$118 (T113-13)  
8 x 10 Area Rug \$274 (163-P1498-810) | 25" Table Lamp \$66 (109-DL1279BC)



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