

## F-35 program growing at Luke AFB

BY CAROLYN DRYER  
FCP Editor

In May 2015, Luke Air Force Base's 56th Fighter Wing conducted a change of mission ceremony, officially including the F-35 in the wing's mission statement: "To train the world's greatest F-35 and F-16 fighter pilots."

F-35 training began at Luke just over a year after the 56th Fighter Wing received its first F-35A in 2014. Pilots and maintainers from Australia, Norway, Italy, the Netherlands, Japan and Israel are at various training stages at Luke.

Luke AFB is the second base flying F-35s in Arizona after the stand-up of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. Eventually, the 56th Fighter Wing will be home to 144 F-35s.

After 33 years in the Air Force, Art Cameron retired at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., as a brigadier general in 2009, and immediately found an opening at Lockheed-Martin.

Cameron speaks to a lot of different organizations about his work as F-35 operations director for Lockheed-Martin, which manufactures the fifth-generation fighter. One of the jobs at the F-35 training center at Luke Air Force Base.

Why at Luke?

Cameron said, "I wanted to be on the leading edge of technology. But more important, I wanted to work with good Airmen again. I was a maintenance operations commander at Luke, and I always wanted the opportunity to come back to the West Valley and the F-35 was that opportunity."

He returned to the West Valley in better place in the world.

"Every day I go to work is a blessing," he said.



**Left,** An F-35A Lightning II jet fighter soars over the West Valley during a training flight after takeoff from Luke Air Force Base. **Right,** Art Cameron is the F-35 operations director for Lockheed-Martin. He retired from the Air Force as a Brigadier General in 2009. (Photos courtesy Lockheed-Martin)

Cameron said Luke is the largest fighter wing in the world and also the largest F-35 base. It trains 95 percent of fighter pilots.

"And nobody but us is training brand new F-35," he said.

He said he was the first hire by Lockheed-Martin. But since he's been on the job, 500 additional people have been hired, 97 percent of which are veterans. Twenty F-35 pilots train other pilots in the aircraft.

Cameron's team also takes care of data administra-

tion for Luke. And the team is growing, he said, to about 700 in the next couple years. Nine companies are doing F-35 work at the base, he said.

Pilots from every country that has purchased the F-35 also train at Luke. That is, all except the United Kingdom, which purchased the F-35 variant hovercraft, which is the same F-35 the U.S. Marines use. That particular training base is in North Carolina.

**F-35**...continued on page 10



# The sound of freedom: the day of the Cobra Jet

BY BILL JOHNSTON

Program Director, Fighter Country Foundation

There's never a boring day when it comes to working for Fighter Country Foundation. Late in 2018, one of our partners, Dave Kimmerle and Sanderson Ford, came with an audacious idea. Ford Motor Company was about to begin production on a 50th anniversary of the Cobra Jet. The idea was simple; Sanderson Ford would work with

Ford Motor Group to build a Cobra Jet specifically for it to be auctioned at the Barrett Jackson auto auction with the proceeds going to Fighter Country Foundation. Getting to that point was an adventure and showed what a great partnership can produce.

The storied history of the Cobra Jet goes back to 1968 when Ford rolled out 50, 335-horsepower Mustangs for use as drag-racing machines. Their success

was instant on the race track. The muscle-car era was in full swing and horsepower was king. The Cobra Jets dominated NHRA races across the country for more than five decades.

To acknowledge that history, Ford Motor Company developed the 50th anniversary to continue that tradition. The

2018 model is a race track car, pure and simple. It can rip through the quarter mile in less than eight seconds. This Cobra Jet has a black and gold cobra emblazoned along the side with "FIGHTER COUNTRY FOUNDATION" and is nicknamed "The Sound of Freedom." And oh, by the way, it comes with a parachute on the back. Ford wouldn't even disclose the horsepower of the 2018 model. That's incredible.

The staff of Fighter Country Foundation, along with a few of the members of our board of directors, arrived to the Barrett Jackson auction on that Saturday in January. There was a certain excitement in the air as we walked around the grounds of the car auction.

For those who have never been to the Barrett Jackson car auction, it is almost difficult to explain how big it truly is. We walked, walked and walked some more and then we found it. The Fighter Country Foundation Cobra Jet was sitting with hundreds of other vehicles that had been auctioned during the multiweek event. It was sitting by itself and as we approached it, I could tell we all knew how special this experience was going to be. We were in for a ride that evening if we couldn't go for a ride in the Cobra Jet. We took some pictures and then went to the staging area to wait our turn on stage.

We gathered under a huge overhang to watch as vehicle after vehicle went through the staging area, on stage and then off once it was purchased. In the background, we all heard a thunderous



The Cobra Jet, nicknamed "The Sound of Freedom"

roar ... and it was coming closer to our position. The Cobra Jet had been started and was rolling toward us.

Now I understood why it was called "The Sound of Freedom." This Cobra Jet let off a roar as if it were an F-35 getting ready for take-off. The driver brought it to us, and we were all incredibly excited. The atmosphere, which was already electric, was going into overdrive.

Then it was our time. The driver started the beast and it let out another huge roar. I peeked around a few people and could see the thousands of people in the event arena and thought about the millions watching on their televisions. In fact, the surreal thought had just come to mind that



Bill Johnston (Photo courtesy Bill Johnston)

I was at home three hours ago watching this on my TV and now I was here about to walk on stage with the Cobra Jet. The spotlights were on us as we walked onto the stage. Fighter Country Foundation and Sanderson Ford were there in force to share in this experience.

As with most auctions, it was over almost as soon as it started. As we walked off stage, everyone in attendance was walking on cloud 9 from what had just happened. We at Fighter Country Foundation are very grateful to have such incredible partners like Dave Kimmerle and his entire team at Sanderson Ford. They made the idea of bringing the Cobra Jet to life for Fighter Country Foundation, and it is something that I will never forget.

Thank you, Dave! ■



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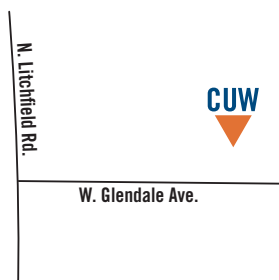


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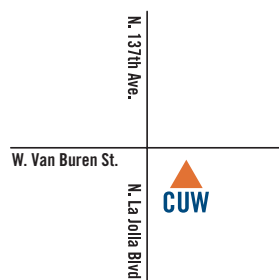
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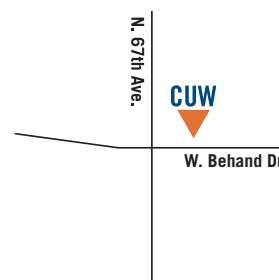
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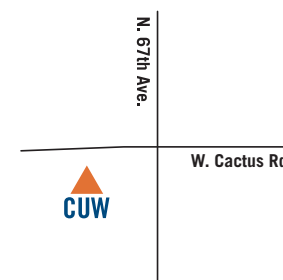
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# 41 years of DOD service comes to an end for this aviation enthusiast

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ASPEN REID  
56th Fighter Wing

With a black camping chair, a sack of cold sandwiches and a very large camera, Harvey Brugger, 56th Operation Support Squadron air traffic controller, sits between runways, doing what he loves: aviation photography.

Brugger culminated his 41 years of service to the Department of Defense the best way he knew how – a way few others ever had. From dusk till dawn, he photographed F-35A Lightning II's and F-16 Fighting Falcons from Luke AFB, taking off and landing.

Brugger spent 21 of his years of service in the Air Force as an air traffic controller, which took him to places all over the world including Panama, Greenland and around the United States.

"My favorite experience is when I came back to Luke in 2004," Brugger said. "I was 52 years old working with 18- to 19-year-old kids and I told them, 'This will either keep me young or kill me.' It's a good experience working with young troops. Retiring from the military and then finding my way back



Harvey Brugger, 56th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, accepts a retirement gift during his retirement ceremony, December 17, 2018, at Luke Air Force Base. The gift contained his best photographs and signatures from other members in the ATC flight. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Aspen Reid)

was like coming home to family."

ATC can be a challenging career, charged with ensuring the safety of pilots and Airmen on the runway and the flow of air traffic.

"ATC's job is to control the air space in an orderly and expeditious way," Brugger said. "It's a job that's very rewarding and fulfilling, and you're either good at it or you're not. It's like a

calling."

Though he is well traveled, Brugger still recalls his favorite base as Thule Air Base, in Greenland.

"I did one year at Thule, and that turned out to be a very interesting base," said Brugger. "There wasn't a lot to do there, but I would be out taking pictures while everyone else was in the barracks."

Photography and aviation have been a lifelong passion of Brugger's since his days at Thule AB, Greenland, where two Danish photographers taught Brugger how to shoot on film.

"I could shoot as much as I wanted and they taught me to develop color slide film," Brugger said. "I learned a lot of valuable information from them, and it sure made a year go by rather quickly at Thule."

After retirement, Brugger plans to continue his passion of photography by traveling with an aviation photography group that moves between southwest states to different Navy and Air Force bases.

"I've been out to Edwards AFB, Cal-

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Harvey Brugger, 56th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, watches an F-35A Lightning II taxi down the runway, December 13, 2018, at Luke Air Force Base. Brugger is an aviation enthusiast with a passion for photography. After 41 years of service, the 56th Fighter Wing afforded him the opportunity to photograph aircraft from in-between the runways. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Aspen Reid)

ifornia and central California,” said Brugger. “Now that I’m retired, I’ll be able to travel with them a lot more.”

As Brugger sees the shot he wants and raises his camera, he becomes inseparable from the moment. He describes often being caught in a trance by the beauty of the scenes he photographs. Looking through the lens and watching light cast over the object in his focus, Brugger finds serenity.

“I’ve been told I go into a zone when taking photographs,” Brugger said. “It’s like everything else goes away when I’m looking for a specific shot with the lighting I want. It’s not just point and shoot for me.

After 41 years of service, Brugger switches off his radar system for the last time, passing the torch to the upcoming Airmen of the 56th OSS ATC. ■

## Lesko and Veasey introduce bipartisan F-35 resolution

BY FCP STAFF

Reps. Debbie Lesko (R-AZ) and Marc Veasey (D-TX) introduced a House Resolution March 4 recognizing the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program as a critical component of America’s national security, one which Congress must continue to support.

With 40 original cosponsors, this bipartisan resolution reaffirms the F-35’s vital role for maintaining air superiority to preserve global security and stability. The Joint Strike Fighter Caucus has also endorsed the bill.

“Luke Air Force Base is the largest F-35 operating base in the world, training pilots from around the world right here in Arizona,” Lesko said. “The F-35 is imperative to Luke Air Force Base, the U.S. military and to our national security. I am encouraged by all of my colleagues who agree that the F-35 should be supported for years to come.”

Veasey added, “The F-35 Resolution introduced today redoubles Congress’



Rep. Debbie Lesko (Photo courtesy Debbie Lesko)

commitment to the F-35 program and the importance of bolstering and maintaining our national security and the security of our allies. I’m proud that Dallas-Fort Worth is home to the development and production of F-35s, and continue to believe in the mission of this vital program.” ■

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# Credit Union West supports Military Saves Week

BY FCP VISIONS STAFF

Once again, Credit Union West was proud to support the Luke Air Force Base as it celebrated Military Saves Week February 25 to March 1. The credit union helped by encouraging active duty, veteran military and their families to pledge to save for a financial goal, whether it's a new car, a child's college fund or a down payment on a home. It's important to the credit union that it's improving its financial future.

Military Saves Week seeks to motivate, support and encourage military families to save money, reduce debt and build wealth. All service members, veterans, their families and civilian employees are encouraged to take the Military Saves pledge to promote year-round saving.

In addition, Credit Union West was a major partner of the Finance Expo on March 2 at The Wigwam in Litchfield Park. The event was in partnership with Fighter Country Partnership and the Airman and Family Readiness Center on Luke Air Force Base. Focused on sharing sound financial options, Credit Union West provided resources and in-



Credit Union West posted a banner to promote Military Saves Week at the south gate entrance to Luke Air Force Base. (Photo courtesy Credit Union West)

formation on various products, as well as hosted breakout sessions on topics like credit score and vehicle buying tips.

As an ongoing partner of Luke Air Force Base, Credit Union West has supported Military Saves Week for

several years. In past years, Luke Air Force Base has been one of the highest drivers of pledges among all the military installations across the nation. This shows a focus on financial security at Luke that Credit Union West is proud to support.

Credit Union West is proud to see such a strong commitment to financial responsibility at Luke Air Force Base. The credit union is committed to its service of all Luke Air Force Base personnel and their families, now and for years to come. ■

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# Wings of Freedom plans displays at Glendale, Deer Valley airports

BY HUNTER CHANEY  
Collings Foundation

Participating in the Collings Foundation's Wings of Freedom Tour, B-17 Flying Fortress "Nine O Nine," B-24 Liberator "Witchcraft," B-25 Mitchell "Tondelayo" bombers, P-51 Mustang "Toulouse Nuts" and P-40 Warhawk fighters will fly into the Glendale Municipal Airport for a visit from April 1 to April 4.

The tour will lift off and land at Deer Valley Airport for a display from April 4 to April 7.

The B-17 is one of only nine in flying condition in the United States. The B-24J Liberator is the sole remaining example of its type flying in the World. The B-25 is best known for being used in the daring Doolittle raid. The P-51 "Toulouse Nuts" fighter received the prestigious Grand Champion Award for restoration. New to the tour is the legendary P-40 Warhawk fighter.

Visitors may explore the aircraft inside and out; \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Discounted rates for school groups.

Visitors may also experience the



P-40 Warhawk flight training is \$2,200 for a half hour and \$3,200 for a full hour. (Photo courtesy Collings Foundation)

opportunity to actually take a 30-minute flight aboard the rare aircraft. Flights on either the B-17 or B-24 are \$450. Get some "stick time" in the world's greatest fighters. P-51 flight training is \$2,400 for a half hour and

\$3,400 for a full hour. P-40 Warhawk flight training is \$2,200 for a half hour and \$3,200 for a full hour. B-25 flights are \$400. For reservations and information on flight experiences, call 1-800-568-8924.

## Tour in Glendale April 1 to April 4

The tour will be on display at Glendale Municipal Airport, located on the ramp at Glendale Aero Service, 6841 N. Glen Harbor Boulevard, April 1 to April 4. It will be on display at Deer Valley Airport, on the ramp at Cutter Aviation, 732 W. Deer Valley Road, from April 4 to April 7.

The tour will arrive at the Glendale Municipal Airport at noon Monday, April 1, and depart after noon operations, Thursday, April 4. Hours of ground tours and display are noon to 5 p.m. Monday, April 1; 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, and Wednesday, April 3; and 9:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, April 4. The 30-minute flight experiences are normally scheduled before and after the ground tour times above.

## Tour at Deer Valley April 4 to April 7

The tour will arrive at the Deer Valley Airport at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 4, and will be on display until the aircraft departs after operations on Sunday, April 7. Hours of ground tours and display are:

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Visitors to the tour will be able to book flights on the vintage aircraft. (Photo courtesy Collings Foundation)

2 to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 4, and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 5, and Sunday, April 7. The 30-minute flight experiences are normally scheduled before and after the ground tour times above.

The Collings Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit educational foundation devoted to organizing “living history” events that allow people to learn more about their heritage and history through direct participation. The Nationwide Wings of Freedom Tour is celebrating its 30th year and visits an average of 110 cities in over 37 states annually.

Since its start, tens of millions of people have seen the B-17, B-24, B-25, P-40 & P-51 display at locations everywhere. The Wings of Freedom tour is one of the most extraordinary and unique interactive traveling historical displays of its kind.

The Wings of Freedom Tour travels the nation as a flying tribute to the flight crews who flew them, the ground crews who maintained them, the workers who built them, the soldiers, sailors and airmen they helped protect; and the citizens and families that share the freedom that they helped preserve.

The B-17, B-25 and B-24 were

the backbone of the American effort during the war from 1942 to 1945 and were famous for their ability to sustain damage and still accomplish the mission. Despite the risks of anti-aircraft fire, attacking enemy fighters and the harrowing environment of sub-zero temperatures, many B-17s, B-25s and B-24s safely brought their crews home. The P-51 Mustang was affectionately known as the bombers’ “Little Friend” – saving countless crews from attacking axis fighters. After the war, many aircraft were scrapped for their raw aluminum to rebuild a nation in post-war prosperity, and therefore very few were spared. The rarity of the B-17, B-25, B-24, P-40 and P-51 – and their importance to telling the story of WWII – is why the Collings Foundation continues to fly and display the aircraft nationwide. At each location, we encourage local veterans and their families to visit and share their experiences and stories with the public.

For aviation enthusiasts, the tour provides an opportunity for the museum to come to the visitor and not the other way around. Visitors can find out more by visiting the website at [collingsfoundation.org](http://collingsfoundation.org). ■

## AVIATION PLAYGROUND



Leadership from the 56th Fighter Wing participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony, officially opening a new playground at Fowler Park, January 9, at Luke Air Force Base. The imaginative and aviation-themed playground is designed for children ages 2 to 12 and includes many sensory-stimulating and fitness activities. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Zoie Rider)



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## F-35...continued from page 1

The countries that purchase the F-35 send their pilots to Luke for two reasons: the desert and the weather. Cameron said another reason is probably the Barry M. Goldwater Range.

"It's a national asset," he said. "No endangered species and no indigenous people. It's seven minutes of flying time from Luke."

When asked about the cost of an F-35, Cameron replied, "About \$90 million."

Why so much?

"Stealth capability – just a leap in technology," he said.

The team at the F-35 training center mans 12 flight simulators, where it trains transition pilots – those who are already flying F-15s or F-16s – and also brand new pilots. For transition pilots, it takes just 16 simulator rides and 16 flights. For brand new pilots, it takes about eight months.

"They fly simulators for six weeks before we take them on a flight," Cameron said. "When he launches out, he's all by himself for the first time."

A transition pilot flies 16 sorties (simulation flights) and a new pilot flies 40 sorties before he is allowed to

fly by himself.

Three factories produce the F-35: one in Fort Worth, Texas; one in Italy; and one in Japan.

"We train international mechanics," Cameron said. "The internationals that have pilots training at Luke, we maintain."

The F-35 is designed to replace most legacy fighters, Cameron said.

## F-35 simulation and technology

Today, more than 500 F-35 pilots and 4,500 maintainers have qualified through the F-35 Training System, and eight nations have pilots and/or maintainers in training. Simulation plays a prominent role in the F-35 training process, more so than legacy platforms. Because of the advanced capabilities of the F-35, it is not possible to adequately challenge pilots in the live environment alone. With simulation, the F-35 team is redefining how pilots train to provide the range of experience required to maximize the jet's 5th Generation capabilities.

Three training centers across the United States host the latest course-

ware, electronic classrooms, simulators, flight events and event-based maintenance training. To support mission rehearsal and tactics development, F-35 training technologies are also located at operational locations.

More than 200 U.S. and international suppliers are contributing to the F-35 Training System. The F-35 program is built on extensive industrial participation to generate economic growth in F-35 nations and deliver the most affordable, effective technologies.

To see the various F-35 configurations and photos of the fighter in flight, go to F-35 on YouTube. ■



F-35 jets stationed at Luke Air Force base. (Photo courtesy Lockheed Martin)

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# EOD: A job for the Air Force's best and bravest

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ZOIE RIDER  
56th Fighter Wing, Public Affairs

Few tasks require as much attention to detail as disarming an explosive device. When called upon, the 56th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) flight supports the wing's mission of training the world's greatest fighter pilots and combat-ready Airmen by performing tactically and technically demanding tasks.

EOD uses many tools and technologies including robots, x-ray systems and bomb suits to execute the mission in the most efficient, expeditious and safest way possible. An EOD technician's daily duties include maintaining flight readiness, training, and supporting mission sets such as operational range clearance, countering and defeating terrorist threats, and responding to emergencies on and off base involving explosive devices, all while maintaining a high level of physical fitness.

"The range clearance mission involves an ongoing effort to clear active ranges of dud-fired ordnance, munitions waste and explosive residues in



**Left**, Senior Airman Henry Dodd, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technician, places a bomb suit helmet on a volunteer during a demonstration event at Luke Air Force Base. An EOD technician's daily duties include maintaining flight readiness, training, and supporting any one of their 10 mission sets to include operational range clearance, counter-improvised explosive device efforts and civil authority defense support. **Right**, Senior Airman Henry Dodd, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technician, and Col. Michael Richardson, 56th Fighter Wing vice commander, participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony, officially opening the new EOD facility at Luke Air Force Base on February 20. (U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Zoie Rider)

order to facilitate the continuation of training operations," said Staff Sgt. James Vossah, 56th CES EOD team

lead. "Our emergency response capabilities involve providing 24/7 response to any direct or indirect explo-

sive incident, accident or threat which may impede the ability to execute the mission."



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EOD Airmen go through extensive training to prepare for the operational Air Force. The first training course is a 26-day EOD preliminary course held at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, followed by the seven-month Naval School of Explosive Ordnance Disposal course held at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

“The EOD training pipeline provides a progressive developmental approach to training in all of our mission sets, beginning with basic explosive concepts and concluding with nuclear dynamics,” Vossah said.

Their motto, “initial success or total failure,” requires them to think outside the box and accept nothing less than perfection when executing their tasks. To maintain the functional performance ability to execute demanding tasks, EOD members are held to stricter fitness standards than the rest of the Air Force.

“In addition to the Air Force Fitness Assessment, preliminary school students must pass the Physical Ability and Stamina Test and Tier One Performance Screen assessment,” Vossah said.



A robot used by 56th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technicians sits on display during an event at Luke Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Zoie Rider)

As their capabilities expanded and equipment inventory grew here at Luke, a larger facility was needed. The new 56th CES EOD flight building officially opened February 20.

“In addition to our daily operational missions, EOD provides emergency response capabilities for Luke Air Force Base and all Department of Defense satellite locations in the area,” said Maj. Trevyn Guglielmo, 56th CES EOD flight commander. “This new facility consolidates EOD’s personnel, equipment and vehicles into one central location, which will increase our emergency response capabilities.” ■

## HONORARY COMMANDER TOUR



Honorary Commanders stand on top of the air traffic control tower during a tour of Luke Air Force Base on January 8. The Honorary Commanders watched as F-35A Lightning IIs and F-16 Fighting Falcons took off for training missions. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Aspen Reid)

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# New 56th Communications Squadron facility to open in 2020

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ASPEN REID  
56th Fighter Wing

Construction began on a new 56th Communications Squadron building in March 2018, to allow more space and updated facilities for Airmen.

The new facility is in the beginning phases of construction and scheduled to be operational in March 2020. Once completed, Thunderbolts from CS will move in and expand their capabilities to properly maintain the 56th Fighter Wing's network security.

"The Communications Squadron is currently spread out in three different buildings," said Chief Master Sgt. Aaron Sanchez, CS superintendent. "Collocating will improve their communication and support of their customers, the airmen of Luke."

Currently, the airmen of the CS are found in some of the oldest buildings on base, making some aspects of their mission difficult to efficiently carry out.

The conditions of the previous facilities kept Airmen from reaching maximum potential. Being physically separated caused a lack of streamlined communication amongst the commu-



Oscar Siqueiros, Army Corps of Engineers project manager, discusses building plans for the new 56th Communication Squadron building on January 14 at Luke Air Force Base. The new facility offers an exponential amount of space with its two-story floor plan and open spaces. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Aspen Reid)

nications professionals.

In addition to Airmen being together, the new facility will house the base records in a more reliable and secure location. Currently, base records are kept in an old building. Once the new

facility is completed, records will be easier accessed and maintained.

The new building will ensure future upgrades to the Luke communication infrastructure are easily implemented and prepared for the ever-changing



A masonry worker with the Army Corps of Engineers walks across scaffolding on the construction site of the 56th Communications Squadron building on January 14 at Luke Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Aspen Reid)

technology climate.

Oscar Siqueiros, Army Corps of Engineers project manager, said things are going smoothly and there have been no major delays or concerns.

The new facility increases the capabilities of cyber warfare airmen to prevent the exploitation of potential vulnerabilities in the base's network as it trains the world's greatest fighter pilots and combat-ready airmen. ■

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# Free dental day for veterans

By FCP Staff

Midwestern University Dental Institute, 5855 W. Utopia Road in Glendale, is hosting a free dental day for U.S. veterans from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 23.

Faculty and students from the Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine-Arizona will spend the day providing free dental screenings and routine cleanings to veterans in need. Approximately 250 Arizona veterans will have the opportunity to receive free screenings and treatments including cleanings, sealants, fillings or extractions, as well as consultations about dental implants and recommendations for follow-up care.

Veterans need to bring a copy of their DD214 or other discharge document.

For details and to register, visit [midwestern.edu/veteransdentalday](http://midwestern.edu/veteransdentalday) or call 623-806-7150. ■



# Glendale chamber hosts breakfast for military



Glendale Chamber Military & Veterans Affairs Committee (Photo courtesy Glendale Chamber)

## BY GLENDALE CHAMBER

Our servicemen and women dedicate their lives to serving our country, but many of them go above the call of duty and become the backbone of our communities. To honor those dedicated servicemen and women, the Glendale Chamber Military & Veterans Affairs Committee (MVAC) will host a Military Appreciation Breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. Wednesday, May 8, at the Glendale Civic Center, 5750 W. Glenn Drive.

The Glendale Chamber MVAC is looking for active duty military personnel (including National Guard and reserve) to recognize at this inaugural event. If you know someone who deserves to be recognized for going above and beyond the call of duty, the

Glendale Chamber MVAC encourages you to make a nomination. Deadline to submit is March 29. All nominations will be considered for special recognition among the military community and supporters.

Everyone is invited. Show your support for our local military personnel by attending this breakfast. Spots are limited. You can also get involved by sponsoring the event. There are a variety of ways to get involved as a sponsor, from sponsoring the breakfast of one military member to being a presenting sponsor at the event.

For nominee submission, ticket purchase and sponsorship pricing, visit [glendaleazchamber.org/militaryappreciation](http://glendaleazchamber.org/militaryappreciation). ■

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# Luke F-35 weapons load crew capabilities enhanced through training

BY STAFF SGT. JENNA BIGHAM  
56th Fighter Wing, Public Affairs

It's a phrase often heard around the Air Force, "We train like we fight," and this time, it came from the weapons community in what's commonly referred to as the "Weapons Load Barn."

A team of four Air Reserve technicians from the 419th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, brought a fighting mentality and increased lethality to Luke. Thirty-nine personnel from the 56th Aircraft and Component Maintenance Squadrons received three days of training on installing external aircraft maintenance equipment on the F-35A Lightning II.

"Most people understand that the F-35 is a fifth-generation stealth aircraft designed to perform missions undetected against our adversaries," said Chief Master Sgt. Richard Pelletier, 56th Maintenance Group wing weapons manager.

"The addition of external munitions increases the aircraft's weapons carry capability."

This is the first time Luke weapons airmen installed external pylons, and



The F-35A Lightning II sits in a hangar loaded with dummy external munitions, February 13, at Luke Air Force Base. After completing the external pylon installation training, the weapons loading standardization crew, a team of three airmen, became the first team at Luke to be certified on external GBU-12 bomb and AIM-9 missile loading. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Aspen Reid)

loaded external bombs and missiles on an F-35.

"Weapons technicians will be better versed in the overall aircraft weapons system and pilots will leave this base and enter the combat Air Force more

ready and capable of flying to the aircraft's full potential," said Staff Sgt. Jimmy Mares, 56th MXG weapons load crew member.

After completing the external pylon installation training, the weapons

loading standardization crew, a team of three airmen, became the first team at Luke to be certified on external GBU-12 bomb and AIM-9 missile loading.

"The training allowed us to identify future training opportunities and com-

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Senior Airman Levi Aydt, 56th Component Maintenance Squadron load crew member, directs the jammer driver to position dummy munitions on an external pylon. The F-35A Lightning II can have external pylons installed for additional munitions while in combat. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Aspen Reid)

plete training with lessons learned and experienced by Air Combat Command units,” Mares said. “This is paramount for our development going forward.”

Approximately 150 F-35 weapons loaders will receive training directly from those trained by team Hill.

“We will systematically develop our airmen’s competence through deliberate training events and hone their confidence through standardization and repetition,” Pelletier said. “It is our intent to make this training a staple for all newly assigned airmen.”

Whether it’s night flying, dog fighting or loading external munitions for increased capabilities, it all comes down to training like we fight and being prepared for any mission.

“Our objectives are designed to ensure we train the best maintainers and aircrew to stay ahead of any potential adversary,” Pelletier said. “Whether an aircrew member or maintainer, everyone who departs Luke for another F-35 assignment will be better mentally and technically equipped to operate in an operational environment.” ■

TAKING A RIDE ON THE SLIDE



A child takes a ride on the slide at Fowler Park at Luke Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Zoie Rider)

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# Glendale native is member of 'Silent Service'

BY ERICA R. GARDNER  
Chief Mass Communication Specialist,  
Navy Office of Community Outreach

Modern attack submarines are the most technologically advanced and capable undersea warfighters in the world. Operating these highly complex submarines require sailors from the U.S. Navy's submarine community, also known as the "Silent Service."

Petty officer 1st Class Huy Vu, a 2005 Independence High graduate and native of Glendale, Arizona, has served for 13 years and works as a Navy machinist's mate (nuclear) serving aboard one of the world's most advanced nuclear-powered submarines, U.S.S. Charlotte, homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

As a Navy machinist's mate (nuclear), Vu is responsible for the safe operation and maintenance of the ship's propulsion plant.

Vu credits success in the Navy to many of the lessons learned in Glendale.

"I was taught to be kind to others, which is important in the Navy," Vu said.

Jobs are highly varied aboard the submarine. Approximately 130 sailors

make up the submarine's crew, doing everything from handling weapons to maintaining nuclear reactors.

Attack submarines are designed to hunt down and destroy enemy submarines and surface ships; strike targets ashore with cruise missiles; carry and deliver Navy SEALs; carry out intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions; and engage in mine warfare. Their primary tactical advantage is stealth, operating undetected under the sea for long periods of time.

Because of the demanding environment aboard submarines, personnel are accepted only after rigorous testing and observation. Submariners are some of the most highly trained and skilled people in the Navy. Regardless of their specialty, everyone has to learn how everything on the ship works and how to respond in emergencies to become "qualified in submarines" and earn the right to wear the coveted gold or silver dolphins on their uniform.

Though there are many ways for sailors to earn distinction in their command, community and career, Vu is most proud of earning his submarine dolphins.

"It tested me because it was difficult, but I did it," Vu said.

Being stationed in Pearl Harbor, often referred to as the gateway to the Pacific in defense circles, means Vu is serving in a part of the world taking on a new importance in America's focus on rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

"Our priorities center on people, capabilities and processes, and will be achieved by our focus on speed, value, results and partnerships," Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer said. "Readiness, lethality and modernization are the requirements driving these priorities."

The Navy has been pivotal in helping maintain peace and stability in the Pacific region for decades.

The Pacific is home to more than 50 percent of the world's population, many of the world's largest and smallest economies, several of the world's largest militaries, and many U.S. allies.

As a member of one of the U.S. Navy's most relied upon assets, Vu and other sailors know they are part of a leg-

acy that will last beyond their lifetimes, one that will provide a critical component of the Navy the nation needs.

"Serving means honor and duty to our country," Vu added. ■



Petty officer 1st Class Huy Vu, a 2005 Independence High graduate and native of Glendale, has served for 13 years and works as a Navy machinist's mate (nuclear) serving aboard one of the world's most advanced nuclear-powered submarines, U.S.S. Charlotte. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Brian T. Glunt)

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# F-16 Fighting Falcon Heritage aircraft gets new look

BY STAFF SGT. JENNA BIGHAM  
56th Fighter Wing, Public Affairs

The former 56th Fighter Wing flagship F-16 Fighting Falcon, tail number 89-2056, got a paint job, and it's taking its new look to the skies above Luke Air Force Base.

Per Air Force Instruction, only one aircraft is allowed to carry the lead 56th FW tail, and that title belongs to an F-35A Lightning II, tail number 12-5056. However, an exception was made using heritage approval guidance.

"The 19th AF approved the designation of a 'heritage tail' to allow dual lead aircraft," said Tech. Sgt. Jason Stachowski, 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron corrosion control non-commissioned officer in charge.

"Aircraft 89-2056 served as the wing's flagship from 1993 until 2015, when the F-35 was designated as the flagship," said Chief Master Sgt. Jonathan Veal, 310th Aircraft Maintenance Unit superintendent.

"With its rich history as the commander's aircraft and flown by several commanders, who went on to be senior leaders across the Air Force, it was



**Left,** An F-16 Fighting Falcon sits on the runway with its newly painted vintage tail flash at Luke Air Force Base. The F-16 will promote the heritage and role the aircraft has played in the Air Force and the airmen who fly and maintain it. **Right,** Staff Sgt. Joseph Berry, 310th Aircraft Maintenance Unit low observable aircraft structural maintenance craftsman, prepares a paint solution for an F-16 Fighting Falcon at Luke Air Force Base. Berry and other members of the 310th AMU restored the vintage paint design on a single F-16, which pays tribute to the aircraft's heritage and its continued role in developing fighter pilots. (U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Caleb Worpel)

the obvious choice to designate as the wing heritage flagship."

The paint scheme of most F-16s is subdued. However, the new look takes

the jet back to its 1978 roots when the F-16 was first in service.

"We added the colored thunderbolt tail flash on the top of the aircraft, a

black and white shadowed tail flash, color patches of all squadrons operating at Luke, as well as several other colored aircraft markings to make it

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An F-16 Fighting Falcon with a completed vintage paint design sits on the runway at Luke Air Force Base. The F-16 will promote the heritage and role the aircraft has played in the Air Force and the airmen who fly and maintain it. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Caleb Worpel)

stand out,” Stachowski said.

The paint job took three days to complete, but the project was in the works for months and involved a team of 16 airmen taking the process from idea to fruition.

“When the F-35s came to Luke, a lot of attention was diverted away from the F-16. We wanted to show the 56th Fighter Wing and the community that no matter which aircraft you work on or fly in or what your career field is, we’re all here to train the world’s greatest fighter pilots and combat ready airmen,” Stachowski said.

Veal also talked about the airmen’s sense of pride when they understand

the heritage and history of the Air Force, wings, squadrons and their units.

“We owe it to our predecessors to carry the torch and preserve the unit’s success while creating our own,” Veal added.

With its new paint scheme, the heritage aircraft is well suited to fulfill the numerous requests for fly-overs, static displays and educational tours that highlight the hard work and dedication of the airmen across the 56th FW.

“We’re paying respect to the past with the F-16 and looking to the future with the F-35”, Stachowski concluded. ■

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Brig. Gen. Todd Canterbury, 56th Fighter wing commander, provides a wing mission briefing to the Honorary Commanders at Luke Air Force Base on January 8. The briefing provided an overview of how we train the world’s greatest fighter pilots and combat-ready airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Aspen Reid)

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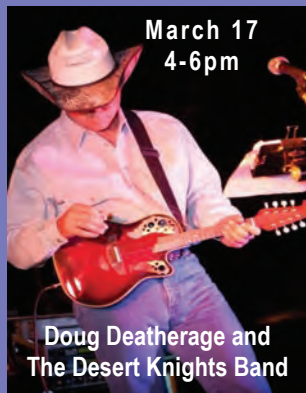
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# Luke Air Force Base earns Hero Award

BY FCP STAFF

The efforts of blood drive coordinators throughout the state were applauded in February at Valentines for Life, the premier annual awards event for Vitalant (formerly known as United Blood Services).

Among those recognized was Luke Air Force Base, which received the Hero Award, Vitalant's most prestigious honor. The designation is reached by just 3 percent of all blood drive coordinators across Arizona. Hero Award recipients provide the largest impact on the blood supply by going above and beyond with outstanding blood drive planning, as well as recruiting donors on difficult days or during times of the year when the need was most critical.

Last year, volunteer blood drive coordinators from 1,476 organizations hosted 3,572 blood drives across Arizona, which provided 95,312 blood donations. Because blood can be separated into components to benefit multiple patients, those donations saved about a quarter million lives.



Capt. Shelby McKay and Master Sgt. Morgan Iorio of Luke Air Force Base were among the top 3 percent of award-winning blood drive coordinators recently honored by Vitalant (formerly known as United Blood Services). As blood drive coordinators for Luke, they earned a Hero Award for providing the largest impact on the blood supply. Of the 1,476 organizations that sponsored blood drives last year, Luke was one of the top 50 across Arizona that qualified for the Hero Award. D-backs legend Luis "Gonzo" Gonzalez joined in as a special guest to congratulate Hero Award winners. From left to right are Gonzalez, Iorio, McKay and Vitalant Southwest Division President Tom Choi.

With the support of their senior leadership and blood drive committees, 50 Hero Award winners alone provided Arizona patients with 16,780 lifesaving blood donations.

Even back in the 1950s, hospital pa-

tients could count on Luke Air Force Base to provide volunteer blood donors. As hero recipients for the 14th time, it continues a proud tradition. Base blood drive coordinators Capt. Shelby McKay and Master Sgt. Mor-

gan Iorio engage almost every squadron to get involved. Each squadron competes during the year to earn the title of "red baron." They hosted a record 53 blood drives and their efforts brought in 735 donations in 2018.

"We are extremely proud and grateful for their devotion to the blood program and for Luke's overall service to our country," said Sid Lewis, senior director of donor recruitment for Vitalant's southwest division.

Honored guests at the Valentines for Life event heard an inspiring story from a man named David, who is alive today with the help of 39 blood donors. In March 2017, his doctor sent him to the emergency room, where an oncologist confirmed he had leukemia and would have survived only three or four weeks had he not come to the hospital. David spent 100 days in the hospital over the next nine months, enduring rounds of chemotherapy, overcoming medical setbacks and receiving blood transfusions. He heard the words "your cancer is in remission" on December 19, 2017.

"Blood donors gave me a chance to get married and see another birthday and Christmas," David said. "I am so inspired by their sacrifice." ■

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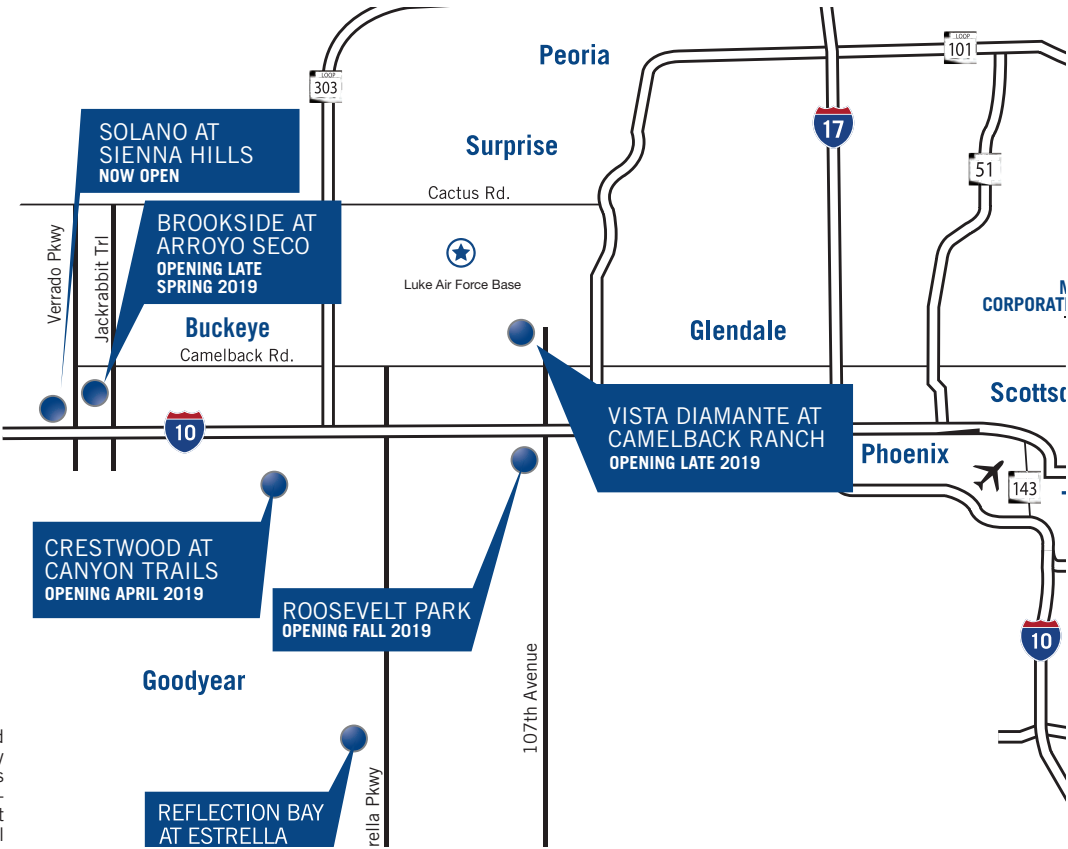
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# F-35 Demo Team pilot practices new maneuvers

BY STAFF SGT. JENSEN STIDHAM  
F-35A Demo Team, Public Affairs

Capt. Andrew “Dojo” Olson, F-35A Lightning II Demonstration Team commander and pilot, has spent the last three months designing, developing and practicing the maneuvers of the all new demo profile.

Fourteen maneuvers make up the aerobatic performance, many of which have never been seen by public audiences.

“The maneuvers showcase the full envelope of the F-35,” Olson said. “On the slow end, we’ll get down to less than 100 miles per hour of air speed, just barely hanging there but in complete control. Then on the high end, we’re going to take it up to just below the sound barrier for the high-speed pass. We’re also going to be pulling up to 9Gs, nine times the force of gravity, and carving the jet into the air at huge angles of attack of more than 50 degrees.”

Maneuvers in the demonstration include: High Alpha Half Cuban; Weapons Bay Doors Pass; Minimum Radius Turn to High Alpha Loop; Pedal Turn; Square Loop; Slow Speed to Power



**Left,** Capt. Andrew “Dojo” Olson, F-35 Demonstration Team pilot and commander, performs a high-speed vertical climb during an F-35 Demo practice at Luke Air Force Base January 16. **Right,** Capt. Andrew “Dojo” Olson performs a weapons bay doors pass. Throughout the off-season, the F-35 Demo Team has been practicing and refining its new demonstration that will highlight the F-35A Lightning II’s full maneuvering capabilities. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Alexander Cook)

Climb with a Split-S Reposition; Inverted to Inverted Roll and Tactical Pitch.

Each air show demonstration is scheduled to last approximately 30 minutes. Half of the show will be spent performing jaw-dropping maneuvers

and the other half performing the Heritage Flight profile with select vintage war planes.

Olson said he does not have a favorite maneuver but spoke about the Pedal Turn with enthusiasm.

“When you watch the ground footage from the pedal turn, it’s almost unbelievable to witness what you’re seeing,” he said. “Any inverted maneuver, where you’re upside down at negative 1G and hanging from the straps in the seat, is a really fun maneuver to do. You’re seeing the world from a whole different perspective.”

Olson mentioned that hanging in the straps is not something often done in

fighter aircraft, so seeing this one-of-a-kind performance is sure to be a spectacle. To achieve such a unique demo profile, he has been preparing in many ways.

“By the time it’s done, we’ll be at close to 30 training flights,” Olson said. “Countless hours in the simulator, academics on the ground before the first flight ever occurred and then after every training event there is careful analysis of the video from both the ground and in the cockpit. Viewing the videos after each flight has proven essential to this historic demo pilot’s training as he continues to refine his skills in the aircraft.



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“I’m just a human trying to fly this thing as best as I can, making sure my mistakes are small, manageable and correctable every time,” Olson said.

And just as a lot of flying time is important to the training, the simple things are just as essential to a high-performance athlete like Olson.

He said getting in the gym, staying fit, eating right and getting plenty of sleep are just a few of the things he keeps in mind, saying the flight is a workout in and of itself.

“Other demo teams may give you a sample of one or two of these maneuvers, but nowhere else will you see all of the best maneuvers on the planet combined into one epic demo,” Olson said. “There’s no filler in this flight. It’s a light the afterburner and rage for 30 minutes kind of show.”

The F-35 Demo Team will perform at air shows across the country in 2019. During their historic inaugural season, Olson and the team of six maintainers and support personnel plan to interact with as many air show attendees as they can. So get your sunscreen out and earplugs in because 2019 is shaping up to be the most intense air show season ever. ■

AVIATION AT PLAY



Planes fly everywhere on the aviation-themed playground at Luke Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Zoie Rider)



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# Glendale Community College serves veterans with pride

BY JOHN HECKENLAIBLE  
Marketing and Communications  
Glendale Community College

Veterans throughout the USA have a proud tradition of sacrifice and serving our country with dedication, professionalism and commitment. In Arizona, we are home to numerous military installations, including Luke Air Force Base in Glendale. As a result, Arizona and the West Valley of the Phoenix metropolitan area has a large population of veterans.

In the same way those veterans were proud to serve their nation, the staff and faculty at Glendale Community College is proud to serve our U. S. veterans. Since its inception in the mid-1960s, Glendale Community College has been dedicated to helping veterans with their academic careers. Over the decades, the number of veterans taking classes at GCC has grown steadily to nearly 1,000 per year.

To better serve this large population, the faculty, staff and administration at Glendale Community College dedicated a building for this purpose. In the spring of 2017, they held a grand open-



The Veterans Services Center at Glendale Community College. (Photo courtesy Glendale Community College)

ing of the Glendale Community College Veterans Services Center. As a result of this, and its long history of helping veterans, GCC has been named a Veteran Supportive Campus by the Arizona Department of Veterans Services.

The Glendale Community College Veterans Services Center is a one-stop shop for veterans who want to transition from military life to civilian life through higher education. The goal at GCC is to provide a wide range of academic opportunities for students, from certificates of completion to degrees and from refresher classes to getting credits as they work towards transferring to a university.

The academic advisors in the Veterans Services Center are veterans themselves and also serve the role of VA Certifying Officials. The advisors assist in planning academic paths, identifying federal and state benefit options, certifying education benefits, and connecting veterans with services, both on campus and in the surrounding community.

In addition to Active Duty Military Tuition Assistance, the GCC Veterans

Services Center services six different VA education benefits. The VSC also guides student veterans through degree planning, as well as class selection and registration. The academic advisors at the GCC Veterans Services Center are deeply knowledgeable about the countless scholarship and financial aid options that are available to veterans and can guide them on the most appropriate path. The services that GCC provides are not limited to academics; As part of the career counseling, the advisors at the VSC will help veterans explore civilian career options and learn about job search tools.

Glendale Community College is proud to be the school of choice for such a large population of veterans. The college will continue to serve our veterans with the same pride our veterans exhibited when they served the United States. ■



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# Team Luke hosts Revitalizing Squadron Task Force

BY SENIOR AIRMAN CALEB WORPEL  
56th Fighter Wing, Public Affairs

As the largest fighter wing in the world, Luke Air Force Base often has the responsibility of sharing important practices and methods stemming from the innovation of our Airmen – in and out of uniform.

Since Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David L. Goldfein announced his initiative to revitalize squadrons, an assigned task force has been visiting bases and producing visible changes as part of an implementation plan.

According to the findings in the implementation plan, Col. Russell Williford, director of the Revitalizing Squadrons Task Force, said there are three key attributes to a successful squadron: verifiable mission success, purposeful leadership and esprit de corps.

These key attributes are being implemented through three lines of effort: focusing on the mission, strengthening leadership and culture, and taking care of Airmen and their families. The task force, in conjunction with a Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Family Advocate representative, visited Luke on January 17 to promote practices and identify improvements specifically on task three, taking care of Airmen and families. The plan includes helping squadrons better support Airmen and families by building on their resilience and strengthening family support programs and community connections.

“Luke is well-known for many different things,” Williford said. “The reputation of Luke across the Air Force is one that does community engagement and taking care of their people very well. The amount of community engagement and the Community Initiatives Team (CIT) in particular is something that is unique to Luke. These programs have the ability to show what close community ties and ongoing communications can do in an area that has a dense population and a very important mission.”

Increasing pressures of urban development are a high priority on Luke’s leaders’ list of concerns. Luke is one of the few Air Force installations that has a dedicated office and staff, the CIT, to foster direct communication channels and build positive relationships with local authorities, community members and elected officials.

“Our trip to Luke was to initiate a dialogue with the wing and the folks who are performing these really important



**Left,** Col. Russell Williford, director of Revitalizing Squadrons Task Force, meets with his staff and members of the 56th Fighter Wing at Luke Air Force Base on January 17. The task force, in conjunction with a Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Family Advocate representative, visited Luke to promote practices and identify improvements which need to be made in achieving squadron revitalization initiatives. **Right,** from left to right, Major Shawna Parker, deputy director of Revitalizing Squadrons Task Force; Col. Russell Williford, director of Revitalizing Squadrons Task Force; Col. Heather Thorne-Albright, Royal Canadian Air Force family advocate; and Chief Master Sgt. Johnathan Hover, chief of Revitalizing Squadrons Task Force, visited Luke. (U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Caleb Worpel)



missions,” Williford said. “Coming here was a learning aspect to understand, with allies, how we can share practices affecting these programs. For our team in particular, seeing the best practices which Luke is performing in person helps us use them to facilitate across the entire Air Force.”

Williford explained that Luke holds a robust status across the Air Force for the programs it has in place to continually improve the partnerships for Airmen and their families.

Col. Heather Thorne-Albright, RCAF family advocate, spent the day touring Luke with the task force to learn from and help improve similar programs in the RCAF.

“Our countries are not that different in the challenges they face in terms of retention, recruiting and trying to find the proper work-life balance for our people,” Thorne-Albright said. “Luke has so many great ideas and people doing outstanding work in these community engagement and family support areas that they have here in their community. We hope to go back and see which of these ideas we can borrow to help our men and women and their families back in the RCAF.”

Having learned from the task force, Thorne-Albright realized the policy implementation process was adapted for specific reasons.

“One of the best parts was that this isn’t just out-of-the-box thinking,” Thorne-Albright said. “This is a methodical approach with concrete surveys and data analysis. There wasn’t an expectation that we can change everything tomorrow. Instead of a Band-Aid

fix, Luke has taken the time to get the data, do the homework, and are completely invested and highly motivated into making these community programs successful.”

As the task force continues to work toward the revitalization of squadrons, they continue to learn from adaptive bases and

teams of Airmen who are at the forefront of these initiatives, such as Luke.

“Discussing these challenges initiated a longer dialogue to learn from each other,” Williford said. “It was a natural synergy between all of us to come together and learn more about how to make the Air Force better.” ■

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# Air Force provides employment support for spouses

BY TAMMY COURNOYER  
Air Force Personnel Center  
Airman and Family Sustainment

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Employment skills counselors Air Force-wide understand military spouses face unique challenges in the work force, and they must be prepared to create and maintain a portable career.

This is where A&FRC counselors excel. They cover the gamut of spouse employment, from referrals for education and training, to the fundamentals of resume writing and interviewing, to assisting spouses with finding the perfect job.

“We can help spouses who are just starting out in the work force as well as those who have an established career path,” said Javonika McCree, a community readiness analyst and employment specialist at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

“As a military spouse, you have access to a number of unique resources that will help you achieve your education and career goals, whether it’s fin-

ishing an undergraduate degree, pursuing a training certificate or landing a new job,” McCree added.

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**Left,** Brig. Gen. Todd Canterbury, 56th Fighter Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Thompson, 56th FW command chief, speak in front of Grand Canyon University students and alumni at a tailgate on February 27 in Phoenix. Canterbury and Thompson participate in community events to show support and foster relationships. **Right,** Senior Airman Timothy Orr, Detachment 2 aviation resource manager for the 944th Operations Group, sings "God Bless America" before a Grand Canyon University basketball game on February 27 in Phoenix. GCU hosted Luke Air Force Base leadership and families to honor military members and their service to America. (U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Aspen Reid)

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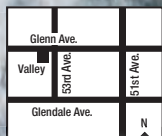
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# Military training leaders guiding future airmen



Airmen stand in formation during a military training leader course graduation ceremony at Keesler Air Force Base, Missouri on November 18, 2016. The graduates wear a blue aiguillette to signify their role in the Air Force as an MTL. These Airmen are the first graduates to attend a revised MTL course, which includes human behavior and the Profession of Arms Center of Excellence training. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kemberly Groue)

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS  
KIMBERLY L. MUELLER  
81st Training Wing Public Affairs

Military training leaders, the first link in the chain of command for Airmen in technical training, are responsible for shaping the future of the Air Force through every airman, every day.

“When an airman arrives to tech school, it does not mark the end of their military training,” said Master Sgt. Sean Brasier, Second Air Force command military training superintendent. “MTLs continue the military standards training mission instituted in basic military training, to ensure foundational processes and lessons learned; become cemented in who they can become as Airmen.”

Each MTL brings in a unique skill set that can be used to equip airmen with a better understanding of the operational

Air Force life as well as a successful career.

Tech. Sgt. James Nye, 334th Training Squadron MTL, said the experience he relied on was from supervising and management attributes learned while being an NCO officer in charge in his previous career field.

“When I found out that I was selected to be an MTL, there was a bit of work to do,” Nye said. “The hardest part of the process was the recommendation letters from the commander and from the command chief. After the process, I was sent to the school at Keesler Air Force Base and went through the MTL course.”

Tech. Sgt. Joshua Free, 336th Training Squadron MTL, added, “Going through the course was a great foundation for most things you

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will see. I have the opportunity to help set Airmen up for a successful career, whether it is from giving them scenarios I have seen, things I have dealt with or even just giving them the information that I didn't get when I was a young Airman."

An MTL plays the biggest part in an Airman's military life by solidifying disciplines, customs and courtesies, values and virtues of the Air Force while helping the Airmen understand why the Air Force operates in the unique way it does. They will ensure the foundation built is the strongest it can be prior to checking in at a first assignment, Brasier said.

"The opportunity this position created showed where I make a difference in the lives of Airmen who are going to serve in ways no one could imagine," Nye said. "My advice to someone who could be a future MTL would be to remember this is a position of high discipline and character. There are going to be times where the job is hard mentally, but the fruits of your labor will be noticeable in the Airmen who develop under your supervision."

Free added, "You have the opportunity to mold thousands of young Airmen who will make a huge difference across the Air Force and leave a lasting imprint on them for their entire careers. I didn't really have an honest understanding of what an MTL did, prior to becoming one. I would say don't back down from this career field based on what you hear or think it will be." ■

## HONORARY COMMANDER BASE TOUR



Honorary Commanders receive a briefing on the F-35A Lightning II during a base tour at Luke Air Force Base on January 8. Honorary Commanders are influential members of the communities surrounding Luke that get to experience life on base and the effort that goes into training the world's greatest fighter pilots and combat ready airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Aspen Reid)



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# Thunder and Lightning coming to Davis-Monthan AFB

BY FCP STAFF

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base will host its air show March 23 and March 24. Gates open at 9 a.m. both days. Flying begins at 11:30 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. Gates close both days at 5 p.m. Davis-Monthan Air Force Base is at 3100 S. Craycroft Road, Tucson.

### Ground displays

- U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt
- U.S. Air Force HH-60G Pave Hawk
- U.S. Air Force HC-130J Combat King
- U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon
- U.S. Air Force EC-130H Compass Call
- U.S. Air Force MQ-9 Reaper
- U.S. Air Force B-52 Stratofortress
- U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker
- U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III
- U.S. Air Force KC-10 Extender
- U.S. Air Force F-15C Eagle
- U.S. Air Force F-35 Lightning II
- U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor
- U.S. Air Force T-1 Jayhawk
- U.S. Air Force T-6 Texan II
- U.S. Air Force T-38 Talon

- U.S. Air Force B-1 Lancer
  - U.S. Customs and Border Protection HH-60 Pave Hawk
  - U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Bell Helicopter
  - B-17 Flying Fortress “Sentimental Journey”
  - SNJ/T-6 Texan
  - TBM Avenger
  - Nanchang CJ-6
  - North American Navion
  - Yak-52
  - AH-1 Cobra
  - UH-1 Huey
  - Aero L-39 Albatros
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### Featured performers

- U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds
- U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt
- U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor
- U.S. Air Force F-35A Lightning II (as part of the U.S. Air Force Heritage Flight) (Saturday only)
- U.S. Air Force Heritage Flight
- U.S. Air Force Parachute Team –



The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will perform Saturday, March 23, at the Davis-Monthan Thunder and Lightning Air Show. (Photo courtesy U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds)

### Wings of Blue Demo

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection Demo
- Kirby Chambliss
- Red Bull Helicopter
- Red Bull Skydiving Team
- Kent Pietsch
- Vicky Benzing
- Joe “Rifle” Shetterly
- Shockwave Jet Truck
- Ric Peterson – Air Show Announcer
- Ralph Royce – Air Boss ■

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

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO

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# Combat Search and Rescue exercise coming to air show

BY FCP STAFF

This year's Thunder and Lightning Over Arizona Air Show will feature a realistic demonstration of the aircraft and techniques used in a Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) exercise. Highlights from this demonstration include:

- The demonstration will begin with two pararescuemen (PJs) jumping from a HC-130J Combat King to simulate downed airmen from a jet that was just shot down.
- A four-ship formation of A-10 Thunderbolts will roll onto the scene and take control of the communications, which will be broadcast to the crowd. Communications will be broadcast throughout the demo.
- The lead A-10 will call in a two-ship of HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters to pick up the downed airmen.
- The HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters will need more gas to make it through the rescue so a HC-130J will fly in formation with the helicopters to perform in-air refueling while the A-10s fly a protection formation around them.
- The A-10s will suppress a threat with

two strafing runs that will include pyrotechnic displays.

- The HH-60 Pave Hawk Helicopters will infil two PJs with a "fast rope" to stabilize and protect the downed airmen.
- The A-10s will protect the helicopter, PJs and downed airmen with bomb runs that will use pyrotechnic displays.
- The HH-60 Pave Hawk will hoist the PJs and downed airmen into the helicopter and all aircraft will depart.

Organizers are calling this CSAR Demo "The Desert Lightning Team (DLT) CSAR Demo" to highlight the interoperability of the attack and rescue functions in the 355th Wing. Major Josh "Nomar" Geidel will lead the CSAR Demo as the Rescue Mission Commander known as "Sandy 1." ■



The Desert Lightning Team Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) DemoTwo team will demonstrate the techniques used in a CSAR exercise at the Davis-Monthan Thunder and Lightning Air Show on Saturday, March 23. (Photo courtesy U.S. Air Force)



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# around the base

FCP photos by Airman 1st Class Aspen Reid

## 19th Air Force commander visits Luke

Maj. Gen. Patrick Doherty, 19th Air Force commander, visited Luke Air Force Base March 4 and talked with maintenance technicians about the Lightning II program and a new way of performing maintenance on the F-35. He also gained firsthand insight into the way Luke strengthens alliances and partnerships in the F-35A Lightning II program.

**1.** Maj. Gen. Patrick Doherty, 19th Air Force commander, talks with Col. Gregory Hutson, 56th Maintenance Group commander, on March 4 at Luke Air Force Base. Hutson introduced Doherty to the Lightning Integrated Technician program, a new way of doing maintenance on the F-35; **2.** Maj. Gen. Patrick Doherty, 19th Air Force commander, discusses new maintenance innovations with Airmen assigned to the 62nd Fighter Squadron and 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit on March 4 at Luke Air Force Base. Doherty is responsible for 45 percent of the Air Force's annual flying hour program.; **3.** Maj. Gen. Patrick Doherty, 19th Air Force commander, engages in discussion with pilots and Airmen from the 62nd Fighter Squadron and 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit on March 4 at Luke Air Force Base. While visiting the base and interacting with Airmen, Doherty gained firsthand insight into the way Luke strengthens alliances and partnerships in the F-35A Lightning II program.



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# Metals technology: Innovating the future of airpower

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ZOIE RIDER  
56th Fighter Wing

From aircraft parts to specialized tools, the airmen at the 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron aircraft metals technology flight manufacture and fix any asset that comes their way.

Using disciplined and innovative maintenance approaches, the airmen support Luke Air Force Base's fifth generation and legacy aircraft.

"We coordinate with engineers to obtain blueprints for parts and are responsible for accurately machining or welding a new component from scratch," said Tech Sgt. Robert Burns, aircraft metals technology, noncommissioned officer in charge.

"We also verify and replace worn aircraft parts in critical areas, like the landing gear components."

As a team, they provide machining and welding operations for aircraft and support equipment across the base. On average, they complete 15 to 20 aircraft and 20 to 30 support equipment jobs per month.

"Our job varies from day to day," Burns said. "One day we could measure landing gear components on an F-16 Fighting Falcon and machine and install new bushings, and the next day weld cracked aerospace ground equipment. Our job allows us the unique opportunity to always have a different challenge from day to day."

They also work closely with local field service engineers and Lockheed Martin to obtain the proper authorizations to repair and manufacture parts



**Left,** Tech Sgt. Robert Burns, 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron aircraft metals technology noncommissioned officer in charge, inputs a command into a 5-axis computer numerical control machine, February 6, at Luke Air Force Base. Metals technology provides machining and welding operations for aircraft and support equipment across the base. **Right,** Airman 1st Class Taylor Frost, 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron aircraft metals technology apprentice, shaves down an ammunition shell. Airmen assigned to the 56th EMS metals technology shop provide disciplined and innovative maintenance approaches to support the fifth generation and legacy aircraft housed at Luke AFB. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Zoie Rider)



for the F-35A Lightning II.

"We obtained authorization from Lockheed Martin, with assistance from our field service engineers, to manufacture the first (F-35 Lightning II) aircraft part," Burns said. "We were able to obtain the drawings and files required and manufactured the part in two days. We saved six months of downtime by locally producing the part."

By engineering at the local level rather than waiting on different repair avenues, metals technologists reduce costs, time and resources for Luke and the Air Force.

"Having metals technology experi-

ence and capabilities at the field level gives the Air Force the ability to fabricate and repair non-procurable and backlogged supply parts," said Master Sgt. Bradford Doyon, aircraft metals

technology section chief. "In turn, this gets the aircraft back to mission capable status faster to ultimately train not only tomorrow's fighter pilots, but also maintainers in a more efficient manner." ■

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