

MAY/JUNE 2019

SOUND OF FREEDOM

NEWS FOR THE LUKE COMMUNITY

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the West Valley home once again

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makes history

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'Fore' the *Military*

Fighter Country's golf tourney
swings for success

BY BILL JOHNSON

Program Director, Fighter Country Partnership

The 10th annual Fighter Country Partnership Honorary Commanders Golf Classic is quickly approaching on Friday, May 17.

This year promises to be bigger and better and we are all very excited about it. The Fighter Country Partnership Golf Classic brings hundreds of golfers to play the award-winning courses at The Wigwam in Litchfield Park.

We begin the day as we always do, at 7 a.m. with the national anthem performed by an airman and a Luke AFB honor guard presenting the colors.

The "shotgun" shot at 7:56 a.m. takes on a new meaning. The golfers begin their journey with a vintage howitzer

SEE **GOLF** PAGE 6

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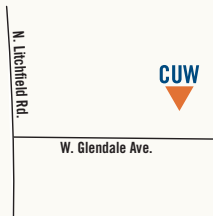
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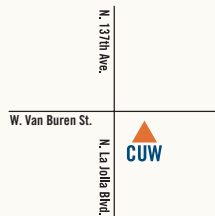
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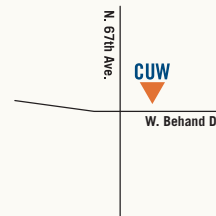
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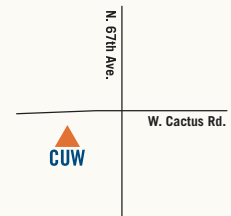
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ON THE COVER

Brig. Gen. Todd Canterbury
Photo courtesy Luke Air Force Base



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Welcome to *Sound of Freedom*

BY CLINT HICKMAN
Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

Some people grow up on a quiet street in a house with a white picket fence, the occasional sound of the morning birds interrupting an otherwise tranquil existence. Me? I grew up under the thundering sound of jets.

When you're born and raised in the West Valley near Luke Air Force Base, as I was, you get used to the sound of fighter pilots overhead. It is the sound of promise and progress; commitment and camaraderie; firepower and freedom.

Luke Air Force Base has been a part of our community for nearly 80 years now. Luke sent pilots off to World War II, gave birth to the Thunderbirds, supported operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and recently reorganized around a next generation fighter jet, the F-35.

As our community has grown and evolved, so has Luke. Now home to approximately 7,000 military members, Luke is not just the training ground of the world's best fighter pilots; it is also a powerful economic engine in Arizona with a total economic impact exceeding \$2 billion.

As a Maricopa County supervisor, I'm proud of our efforts to partner with and

support Luke airmen and their families. One example is the Military and Veteran Success Center that opened in late 2017. It's the nation's first holistic support center for active and former military members and their families. We know it's not always a smooth transition from service to civilian life. The Success Center, made possible with support from the Maricopa County Industrial Development Authority and other community partners, provides a wealth of individualized resources—from education to housing to mental and physical health—to make the transition easier.

The men and women who serve as part of the USAF 56th Fighter Wing (and their families) are a stabilizing force for good in our community. We owe them our gratitude, our respect and our support. Perhaps as important, we owe them the small commitment in time and attention required to understand who they are



and what's important to them. I hope this magazine will promote that type of understanding.

Growing up and living near Luke, I've seen how much a military base can lift a community, and how a community can rise up strong around it. So, when you hear those jets overhead, I hope you feel a sense of pride and duty. It is not just the sound of freedom; it's the sound of home. ■

FIGHTER COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP



GOLF FROM PAGE 2

announcing the start of the tournament. On the first hole of each course the golfers are met by a team from the explosives ordnance disposal unit from Luke Air Force Base showing them its required equipment.

Many months of planning go into our tournament as well, and the entire committee works hard to put on a great event for our fantastic partners and supporters.

Thinking back a few years, I remember when my wife and I were still on active duty at Luke AFB. We were senior noncommissioned officers

and were put in charge of the Top III golf tournament. The Top III is a group of senior enlisted persons from master to chief master sergeant. Our focus area was always professional development of ourselves and those around us, but the Top III is also a fundraiser and one of the events we did each year was a golf tournament.

My wife and I had never done anything like that before and were proud of what we had accomplished. We arranged for a number of raffle prizes and on-course games, all with a “Caddyshack” theme. We had fun, but more importantly, the golfers also had fun. I honestly don’t remember the number of golfers we had during our tournament, but whatever the amount it was one or two foursomes away from being sold out. So, it was a good day for us.

Flash forward a few years when we retired from the Air Force. In February 2016, I started working for Fighter Country Partnership and the tournament, as it always is, was scheduled for May. It amazes me how big this tournament has become over the years and it makes me laugh when I think back to the Top III tournament my wife and I put on several years ago. I laugh because the two tournaments are vastly different in scope.

A tradition we started in 2017 was to invite Luke Air Force booster clubs onto the courses with our Blue Blazer Squadron members. Since the inception of the tournament, a Blue Blazer was placed on a hole to run an activity like cornhole or risk/reward as the golfers came through their hole. Now they are on the hole with a squadron booster club member. The booster club is there to sell their coins, patches and any other piece of squadron gear to the golfers as they come through the hole. The day’s proceeds will go to the booster club and will help pay for the Fourth of July celebration or squadron holiday party. It has certainly turned into a great opportunity for those booster clubs.

As Luke AFB continues to produce world-class fighter pilots, we’re alongside world-class partners and supporters of Fighter Country Partnership during our tournament. We will thank those partners and supporters in different ways during our tournament, but also look for a specific “thank you” in this publication following the tournament. ■

To learn more about our tournament and all the things we do for the men, women, families and mission of Luke AFB, visit fightercountry.org.

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Supporting the Military Culture

Fighter Country Partnership unites
Luke AFB, the community

BY OCTAVIO SERRANO
Sound of Freedom Staff Writer

Ron Sites questioned the structured and organized behavior of his sister, a former Air Force command chief for the 129th Air Rescue Wing.

"I didn't really know why my sister was the way she was until I got involved with the military," Sites says.

Now that he serves as the president and chief executive officer of Fighter Country Partnership, he understands the military and its culture.

Fighter Country Partnership is a non-profit organization that supports the men, women and families of Luke Air Force Base, and wants to support its morale and culture. Fighter Country Partnership is the bridge that strengthens relationships between the Valley and the base.

"All the military members inside the fence line, we support through programs and services that are geared toward morale and well-being, culture and tradition, and mission sustainability," Sites says.

Fighter Country Partnership was founded in the late 1970s as The Talons, according to Sites. The Fighter Country Foundation was established in 2006. The nonprofit organization operates under two umbrellas, Fighter Country Partnership and Fighter Country Foundation.

Fighter Country Partnership's mission stems from a tragedy that struck a military family from Luke AFB. In 2006, Maj. Troy Gilbert was killed when his F-16 crashed in Iraq while protecting American troops on the ground.

"The community came together to support that family and we needed to create an avenue for donations," Sites says. "So that particular tragedy established Fighter



Fighter Country Partnership is always there to support Luke Air Force Base.
(Photo courtesy Fighter Country Partnership)

Country Foundation."

Now, Fighter Country Partnership, continues to support military families through a series of programs, like wellness and finance expos. In addition, Sites says it has monthly deployed family functions, where Fighter

Country Partnership takes the military family members off base to popular attractions like the Wildlife World Zoo.

"We do a back-to-school bash, where

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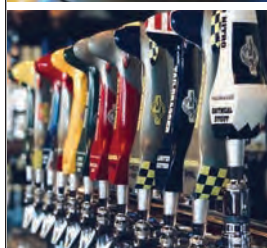


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FIGHTER COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP

FCP FROM PAGE 8

we will fill 400 backpacks of Luke kids with supplies,” Sites says. “We have dozens of programs like that.”

Fighter Country Partnership also supports military functions like the air show, the annual awards banquet, and the Air Force Ball.

To maintain ties with the community, FCP keeps community leaders engaged so they understand the base’s mission and how to support it.

Fighter Country Partnership supports the military community through various campaigns. Luke Forward was launched as a \$5.82 million push to support the airmen and their families.

FCP board member Bruce Larson says Luke Forward has helped complete the Child Development Center, the base’s fire station and the Flight Line Kitchen, which provides breakfast, lunch and dinner to three shifts of airmen year-round.

“Everyone thinks the Air Force has an unlimited amount of money, and they have money for training fighter pilots,” Larson

Civilians support the troops at the Fiesta Bowl Parade.
(Photo courtesy Fighter Country Partnership)



says. “There are always those things that aren’t being taken care of.”

Sites says Fighter Country Partnership has been well received by Luke AFB. Sites proudly says military leadership outside of Luke AFB has given its stamp of approval.

“There is no other nonprofit doing what we are doing, at the capacity that we’re doing

it for an active duty military installation in the country,” Sites says. “We’ve been called the platinum standard of how to support an installation.” ■

For more information, please visit
fightercountry.org



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Home BASE

Brig. Gen. Todd Canterbury made Air Force history when he superseded his father as the Luke commander. (Photo Courtesy of Luke Air Force Base)

Brig. Gen. Todd Canterbury has longstanding ties to Luke AFB

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO-KARASINSKI
Sound of Freedom Executive Editor

For Brig. Gen. Todd Canterbury, returning home to the West Valley to take command of Luke Air Force Base's 56th Fighter Wing was a "dream come true."

"To command the men and women of the 56th Fighter Wing as we continue to train fighter pilots for the United States Air Force is a dream come true. I feel like I won the lottery," he says.

Canterbury—who lived at the base from 1982 to 1985, and formerly lived in Tempe and Litchfield Park—will celebrate his one-year anniversary at the base on June 20. Last summer, he was honored during an emotional change-of-command ceremony at Luke AFB officiated by Maj. Gen. Patrick Doherty, commander of 19th Air Force at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.

The 56th Fighter Wing is the Air Force's only active-duty F-16 training wing and one

of two F-35 training wings. Canterbury, a command pilot with more than 4,100 flying hours, including 650 combat hours, came to Luke from the Pentagon, where he served as director of the F-35 Integration Office.

He replaced Brig. Gen. Brook J. Leonard, who teared up during Canterbury's ceremony as he addressed the audience for the last time as wing commander. He wanted base officials to remember "we must build teams and we must make bold decisions." He serves as deputy commanding general-air, Combined Joint Force Land Component; commander, 321st Air Expeditionary Wing; and deputy commander, 9th Air Expeditionary Task Force-Levant, in Baghdad, Iraq.

"In the end it's about winning. It's about staying and remaining the world's greatest Air Force," Leonard says. "I can't think of a better person to take over this wonderful wing."

Canterbury follows in the footsteps of his father, Maj. Gen. Hank Canterbury, the former commander of Tactical Air Command's 832nd Air Division at Luke from 1982 to 1984.

"The Air Force is very excited about the trusted, respected leadership that the Canterbury family brings to Luke Air Force Base and the 56th Fighter Wing," Doherty says. "I think it's probably the first time we had a father be the Luke commander and now the son is taking over as the Luke commander. I'm not so sure that's happened in the history of the Air Force, so it's pretty special for the Canterbury family."

Calling his father his "biggest fan," Canterbury is modest about his hopes for the base. Addressing him during the ceremony, he says, "I can only hope the second Canterbury



SEE **CANTERBURY** PAGE 13

who will lead this way will have the same success story as you.”

Canterbury’s resume is impressive. He entered the Air Force in May 1993 as a graduate of ASU ROTC. As director of the F-35 Integration Office, he focused on integrating it into the Air Force and making it the most “lethal, survivable and adaptable airplane in the fleet.”

He received numerous medals and awards, such as the NATO medal and the Legion of Merit, the latter of which “as the wing commander of Eglin Air Force Base, so where I stood up the first F-35 training wing in the U.S. Air Force.”

The West Valley is familiar territory to Canterbury. He attended sixth grade at Luke Elementary School and worked as a lifeguard at the base pool. He briefly attended Agua Fria North High School.

“The West Valley means so much to me that I want to be a valuable member of that community,” he says.

Canterbury was raised on the Air Force core values of “integrity first, service before self, excellence in all we do.”

“He (Hank Canterbury) inculcated that in me throughout my whole life as well as just leadership lessons of how to handle challenges that arise in whatever job.”

He is pleased to be near his family.

“I think this is just an unbelievable opportunity to come home, to be 4 miles away from where I’m working, and leading the airmen,” Canterbury said.

During the change-of-command ceremony at Luke Air Force Base, Canterbury told the audience, “This is my home, this is personal to me. This is my chance to give back to the community that has given so much to my family.” ■



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Back **ON TRACK**

New Group Lifestyle Balance focuses on nutrition, physical activity

BY SENIOR AIRMAN MONET VILLACORTE

56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 56th Medical Group is introducing a fitness and nutrition program run by the health promotions office called Group Lifestyle Balance.

The GLB program is a comprehensive and integrative initiative that focuses on nutrition, physical activity and behavior changes to improve overall health and wellness with the ultimate goal of preventing diabetes and improving body mass index.

Esther Bustamante, a dietician with the Health Promotions office explains the program is a voluntary year-long commitment for anyone that has specific health goals in mind or who are at high-risk for diabetes.

“We are utilizing it (the GLB program) as a worksite wellness program to positively impact the health of the active duty members to support mission readiness and performance, on and off the job,” Bustamante says.

The program is in its testing phase with a small group trialing the courses’ objective for a full year.

“It started on March 1, and we have nine participants,” Bustamante says. “We started with a small class to pilot it and we’re hoping to expand in the coming months.”

The GLB program is free and offers a full array of support functions to help participants reach their goal while tracking their progress through classes and physical evaluations.

“We have education and mini physical training support sessions. Education is one day a week for an hour and our mini PT support sessions are three days a week,” Busta-



Airman Nicole Kozuboski and Airman 1st Class Jenaci Ramirez, 56th Medical Support Squadron lab technicians, practice blood-drawing procedures at Luke Air Force Base. The GLB program partnered with the lab to assist with participant health assessments. This includes analyzing blood-work to examine potential risk for diabetes and to compare any changes that may occur by the end of the program. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Monet Villacorte)

mante says.

“There is also a comprehensive assessment that’s going to include body composition with the bod-pod and we have coordinated with the medical group laboratory to get blood-work set up.”

To assist with making those lifestyle adjustments members of the program are also using other resources to document their habits such as pedometers and food tracking apps.

“What I enjoy most about the program is the structure,” says a GLB member. “The information that they give us is very helpful to change our behaviors and the applications that we’re using are really good and eye-opening.” ■

For more information on the GLB program, contact the Health Promotions Office at 623-856-5902.

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607th ACS all-female mission *makes history*

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

For the first time in Air Force history, the Command and Control Battle Management Operations career field executed a mission on its newest weapon system, the Battlefield Control System, with an entirely female crew. From scheduling and mission planning to communications equipment set up and maintenance, a full crew of women from the 607th Air Control Squadron at Luke Air Force Base left their mark on history.

The 607 ACS is a schoolhouse tasked with developing the future of command and control, one airman at a time. They are responsible for seven different courses ranging from the initial surveillance technician course for recent graduates of their preliminary technical training to the undergraduate weapons D=director course, teaching airman aerial engagement and combat weapon system employment and management tactics. Normally, at any given time, there are nearly 80 airmen in training at the 607 ACS.

"We teach our students how to interpret radar data and make sure that we are controlling the battle and keeping our pilots as safe as possible in what are usually the busiest air spaces in the world when we deploy," says Master Sgt. Summer Chenault, 607th Air Control Squadron Alpha flight chief.

Mission planning is an all-day event and starts the day before the mission. The team uses intelligence gathered to plan a war-time battle management scenario from beginning to end. They look at types of friendly and enemy aircraft anticipated, how many air bases are in the area, political borders and what they can expect from each crew member.

"It is very detailed because if you don't understand what you're doing when you step out there, then you're not going to understand what you should be doing while you're performing the mission," Chenault says.

With 18 members involved in the mission in some way and in an operations en-



Amn Eden Martin, 607th Air Control Squadron weapons simulation technician, watches a monitor during the first all-female Command and Control Battle Management Operations team mission at Luke Air Force Base. The team uses intelligence such as friendly and enemy aircraft anticipated, how many air bases are in the area, political borders and what they can expect from each crew member to plan a war-time battle management scenario from beginning to end. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Zoie Cox)

vironment that has traditionally been male dominated, the opportunity to conduct a mission with this type of crew had never presented itself on this weapon system.

"In such a small career field with very few women and even fewer in weapons controller positions, it's been difficult to accomplish a mission like this," says Staff Sgt. Amber Hoedebeck, 607 ACS Weapons Director Initial Qualification Training course manager. "To look across the board and see all of my mentors and peers that I am working with and to see that they are females, there is nothing greater in a day like today."

Although the mission was conducted by an entirely female crew, the excitement was felt throughout the 607 ACS.

"Our leadership team and everyone else were very supportive," Chenault says. "We are a family and they looked at it as 'heck yeah' and thought it was awesome that we were out there doing this."

Whether it's carrying out an all-female mission or any daily mission, the instructor cadre aims to inspire and takes pride in sending the best trained command and control battle managers out into the combat Air Forces.

"There is nothing like it," Chenault says. "I get emotional because I am so proud of what we do. It's incredible to watch them from start to finish, and I know when they leave here with the training they've received, the future of our career field is in safe hands." ■



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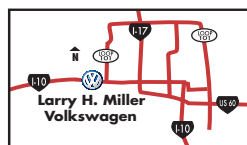
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Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Defenders cut away outdoor guard mounts

BY STAFF SGT. JENSEN STIDHAM
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 56th Security Forces Squadron celebrated the opening of its new guard mount building with Luke Thunderbolts and community members during a recent ribbon-cutting ceremony.

In the past, security forces airmen prepared for their shift outside in formation before reporting to their designated areas around base. Now, just as the summer temperatures begin to rise, the defenders have a climate-controlled area to ensure they are ready for their post.

Col. Michael Richardson, 56th Fighter Wing vice commander, and Col. Robert Sylvester, 56th Mission Support Group commander, spoke during the event thanking those in attendance for their support throughout the six-month project and showing their excitement for the new space.

"A lot of new defenders just arrived at Luke and this is their first impression of guard mount. I can tell you, any base they go to after this they're going to be saying 'Hey, at Luke we had this,' Sylvester says.

"Before they would have gone someplace else, it could have been horrible and they would've said 'Wow, this is a lot better than what we had at Luke.'"

Before they would have gone someplace else, it could have been horrible and they would've said 'Wow, this is a lot better than what we had at Luke.'

The new addition took place as part of the recent Reconstitute Defenders Initiative, an Air Force program designed to aggressively improve security forces. From policy updates to new weapons, three key components of restore readiness, revitalize squadrons and increase lethality are helping Luke Defenders already.

"We never send defenders into a fair fight," says Tech. Sgt. Kenneth McGregor, 56th SFS resource protection. "The building will allow us to do things like combative and nonlethal weapons training. It all enhances our tactical advantage—which helps us execute our law and order operations."



Luke defenders are tasked with ensuring the safety of thousands of Thunderbolts who work and live on base, in addition to protecting property and resources. Upgrading their work environment is one way the 56th SFS continues to protect the base and ensure the wing continues to train the world's greatest fighter pilots and combat ready airmen.

"These airmen deserve our best," Sylvester says. "Whatever we can do to support them, we owe that to them." ■

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(Photo by Sarah Sachs/Arizona Diamondbacks)

Thank You for Your Service

Save money shopping with military discounts

BY BRIDGETTE REDMAN

Whether you are still on active duty or you are a veteran, you've worked hard for your country. When money gets tight, there are organizations out there who recognize your sacrifice and want to help you through the tough times.

Most businesses honor your services by offering some sort of discount off their regular prices, sometimes on a particular day—such as “Military Mondays”—or others will offer the discount at all times. Some even offer free tickets or services.

It is common for businesses to ask you to provide military ID or to come in uniform to prove that you qualify for the discount.

The following are just a few places where you can enjoy the benefits of having served your country faithfully and well.

Arizona entertainment

Arizona Diamondbacks. Military and first responders receive discounts sponsored by Geico, thanks to the team's partnership with GovX.com. Specially priced tickets are available online with verification. Service members can enjoy up to 50% off select locations for every game of the season.

Phoenix Suns. Military personnel can receive discounted tickets when you purchase online through Ticketmaster. You will need to present a valid military ID when you pick up the tickets. You can

also receive 10% off purchases at the Phoenix Suns Team Shop.

Arizona Coyotes. Active-duty, reserved, veteran and retired service members can receive discounted tickets to any Coyotes home game when you buy your ticket online through GovX.com.

The Phoenix Theatre Company. A \$5 discount is offered on all tickets to veterans and active-duty personnel. There are also free and low-cost tickets available through Vettix.com.

Z Fun Factory. The Fun Factory in Yuma offers a 10% military discount to active duty personnel and veterans. Discount applies only to the military person, not their guests, but extends to their attractions (mini-golf, go-karts, batting cage), food and non-alcoholic beverages.

Nationwide stores and goodies

Aeropostale offers a 10% discount with military ID to active-duty, reserved, retirees and dependents.

Kohl's offers a 15% military discount on Military Mondays to active and former military personnel, veterans and their families. You need to show a valid military ID, military dependent ID or veteran ID at the cash register.

Old Navy also celebrates Military Monday with a 10% discount to anyone showing a valid Military ID.

Wilson's Leather extends a 10% discount to clothes, accessories and other merchandise to military personnel and their spouses.

Home Depot offers a 10% discount up to a maximum of \$500 to

SEE **MILITARY DISCOUNTS** PAGE 22

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Sears gives a 20% discount on regular-priced tools and an extra 5% off sale-priced tools to active, reserve, and retired military personnel with a valid military ID. (Photo courtesy Sears)

MILITARY DISCOUNTS FROM PAGE 21

active duty personnel, reservists, retired or disabled veterans and their immediate families. You must present a valid military ID.

Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores offer a 10% discount to military service members and their eligible family members on regular, sale-priced and clearance items. Please present proof of military service, past or present, or a military dependent ID.

Lowe's gives a 10% discount to all active duty military personnel and veterans. To get the discount, sign up online for the Lowe's personal shopping card. The discount is also given to spouses and dependent children up to age 18.

Advance Auto Parts gives 10% off regular-priced items to past and present military service members with an ID.

Pep Boys gives a 10% discount to active-duty and retired military personnel on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Sears gives a 20% discount on regular-priced tools and an extra 5% off sale-priced tools to active, reserve, and retired military personnel with a valid military ID.

Food & Drink

BBQ Company in Gilbert offers a 15% discount on entire meals to U.S. military members. They ask that you show proof of service.

Old Country Buffet offers a 15% discount to active duty, reserved or retired military personnel in uniform or with a valid ID on Military Mondays. The discount extends to up to four members of your family.

Lonestar Steakhouse and Saloon gives veterans and active duty personnel a 20% discount on Mondays and 10% off every other day.

Hard Rock Café gives a 15% discount on all food, nonalcoholic beverages and retail purchases to those with a valid military ID.

Outback Steakhouse gives a 10% discount to service personnel with a valid federal service ID. ■

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Credit Union West strengthens commitment to base and West Valley

BY SOUND OF FREEDOM STAFF

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Sixty-eight years later, Credit Union West still has the same mission—to enhance the lives of military members and their families as a trusted financial services provider—and it has a branch on the base.

The credit union expanded its reach to others who live, work or worship in Maricopa or Yavapai county.

Last year, the U.S. Department of Defense recognized Credit Union West as the Air Force Credit Union of the Year for its commitment to military members. The credit union supports Luke AFB in many ways, including teaching bi-weekly personal finance classes for new airmen and participating in monthly events to welcome new Luke AFB personnel. Each year they support the Air Force's nationwide financial initiative, Military Saves Week, by encouraging military members to make a pledge to save for the future.

Credit Union West also offers products to support the foreign military members who train at Luke AFB and offers co-op shared branching to assist military who have credit union accounts elsewhere. Within the last year, the credit union has installed reserved parking spaces for military and veteran visitors at each branch location. Since 1951, its military support has been unwavering.

On April 12, Credit Union West celebrated the opening of its new corporate office in the West Valley, near the Loop 101 and Glendale Avenue. With deep roots in the community, Credit Union West will be able to serve their members and communities for years to come. ■

Credit Union West executives and city officials hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 12 at the new corporate office in Glendale, near the Loop 101 and Glendale Avenue. (Photo courtesy Credit Union West)

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Looking for a Job?

Luke AFB's employment fair scheduled for fall



BY EDWIN ROBINSON

Sound of Freedom Contributing Writer

Luke Air Force Base will hold its annual job fair on from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16, at Club 56, featuring more than 70 companies actively looking for potential employees.

Aerospace, financial, construction, law enforcement, medical, hospitality and government are among the industries that will be represented.

Recruiters should be pleasant, welcoming

and prepared to interact, and job hunters should do the same, coupled with a brief, firm handshake.

Frequently, recruiters will take the lead and ask questions, but job hunters should also be prepared for what they want the recruiter to know about them. Job hunters should state why they are interested in a certain company position and how their skills and qualifications would be beneficial to the company.

As recruiters speak about the company, job hunters should hand their resume to the recruiters and point out the places that validate

what they are saying. When the conversation is closing, job hunters should thank the recruiter for taking their time speaking with them. Furthermore, request a business card to follow up with the recruiter.

The Luke Air Force Base Job Fair is targeted toward military personnel, military spouses, family members, retirees, Department of Defense civilians and base contractors. Anyone who has base access can attend. For more information, call the Luke Air Force Base, Airman & Family Readiness Center at 623-856-6550. ■

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The Military and Veteran Success Center held its grand opening ceremony at Luke Air Force Base on November 9, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Caleb Worpel)

Finding Success

Center helps ease military transition to civilian life

BY BRIDGETTE REDMAN

The world of military benefits can be a complicated one to navigate, especially for those just transitioning out of the military and into civilian life.

It's why the Military and Veteran Success Center, which opened in November 2017 in Glendale, wants to be a friendly, open resource for those who need it. It was the first support center in the nation that took a community-supported, case-managed, holistic approach to helping military, veterans and their dependents.

What makes them different?

"We are not serving just a particular branch of service. We are open as far as military affiliation, spouses or ex-spouses," says Nisha Dorsey, the center's program manager. "We are trying not to put limitations on who we can serve and what sort of services we can provide."

Elsewhere, assistance can depend on the clients' branch of service, if they were deployed, if they were in combat, their current status and/or the years they served. The center, on the other hand, is open to everyone and will help connect people with the resources that match their affiliations.

People who come to the center and meet with a success coach or a veteran benefits counselor who will work with them individually. Each person defines his or her overall goals and co-creates a success plan tailored to those overall goals while receiving coaching and support at the center.

While the center tries to provide either direct help or referrals for anything a client might need, three services make up its main usage:

Benefits counseling. They partner with the Arizona veterans agency that has dedicated one of its counselors to the center.

Someone transitioning out of the military can meet with the counselor to help identify compensation and pension claims, state veteran benefit eligibility, and anything else benefits related.

Employment services. Success coaches work as case managers with anyone who has employment needs. This might be anything from resume building to needing a job connection.

Financial aid. The center provides some help with housing needs and homelessness aids. They are sometimes able to provide one-time help with utilities or eviction notices.

Dorsey says the center will not turn away anyone. If it is unable to provide them with direct aid, community partners can help.

"Whatever we do is free and anything that we do as a referral, we make sure that is also a free service," Dorsey says.

The center serves as a hub for many organizations and partnerships in the community who want to support veterans.

"While outreach and engagement are what we do, we don't have to go out and seek. People come to us because they want to help," Dorsey says. "We get a lot of people walking in and asking, how can I help? It is

SEE **SUCCESS** PAGE 28



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VETERAN SERVICES

SUCCESS FROM PAGE 26

amazing.”

These partnerships allow it to do a variety of things for military personnel past and present. It hosts workshops about the VA self-help portal. It has vet centers on community college campuses where there are VA-certified officials to help people claim specific education benefits. It partners with cities, human services departments and veteran-specific groups.

Recently, it partnered with the Luke Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America to provide one-time assistance to veterans who were facing eviction or utility shut-off. Others needed an income supplement while going through a loss of employment or illness.

“It is very difficult to get that financial assistance in the normal way,” Dorsey says. “Everyone gets overflooded with requests for financial assistance. This is specific to our center and we were able to utilize the whole grant for people who have a one-time financial hardship. It is a beautiful partnership and it is very quick.”

Dorsey says they work hard to make sure they can get military personnel what they need, especially as they transition out of the military. They make regular presentations at Luke Air Force Base, and are committed to being a friendly, welcome open door for anyone who needs support.

“At the end of the day, we just want to be supportive of those who served,” Dorsey says. “We are part of the community and know who is doing what to help it be a little bit easier to separate out of the



The Military and Veteran Success Center held its grand opening ceremony at Luke Air Force Base on November 9, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Caleb Worpel)

military and into civilian life. We are also there for military spouses. We won't limit it to just veterans or active duty, but their families as well. We want to be a safe, welcome place.” ■

Services offered by the MVSC are free of charge. The center is located at 1532 North Commissary Road, Glendale, Ariz. Contact the center directly at (480) 384-9874 for more information.

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An advertisement for "Hopeful Heart" jewelry. It features several heart-shaped necklaces, some with diamonds, and three white boxes containing more jewelry. The text "Hopeful Heart" is prominently displayed, along with the tagline "Keep Hope In Your Heart." Below that, it says "Cancer Awareness & Support Our Troops". At the bottom, the logo for "Osborne Jewelers" is shown, with the tagline "THE STORE INTEGRITY BUILT". The address "15350 W. McDowell Rd., Goodyear, AZ 85395" and phone number "(623) 925-1815" are listed, along with the website "www.osbornejewelersinc.com".



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Remembered for Accomplishments

Former Luke pilot killed in
Ohio plane crash

BY DARRELL JACKSON

Sound of Freedom Staff Writer

An F-35 pilot from Phoenix who was killed in a small plane crash in Marysville, Ohio, recently is being remembered by colleagues for his accomplishments.

Lt. Col. Matthew Hayden, 44, was a commander for Luke Air Force Base's 56th Training Squadron from 2014 until his retirement last year.

"I will say that even if you met him in church or even if you met him in the grocery store, he's just the most quiet, unassuming, cool and confident guy that you can possibly imagine," says Col. Michael Richardson, who is vice commander of the 56th Fighter Wing.

Hayden was the only occupant of the eight-seat plane, which crashed in a light snow storm on March 17. It was registered

to Classic Solutions Co. Inc. of Bakersfield, California.

According to Union County Sheriff's Office deputies, Hayden was en route from Dayton International Airport to Delaware Municipal Airport.

An investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board who has taken over the investigation has been reviewing the crash site. Others assisting in the investigation are the Multi County Crash Investigation Team, the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board.

According to investigators, witnesses report the plane hit several utility poles and landed in a farm field near U.S. Highway 42. The wreckage consisted of several hundred pieces, which were strewn across a 400- to 500-yard stretch of farmland.

Richardson says the Luke Air Force Base community was in shock when it learned of Hayden's death.

"He was an amazing family man who cared for his daughters. His oldest daughter getting ready for college in the fall is one of the things that made him retire last year," Richardson says.

Hayden earned his Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering and engineering mechanics from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in 1998. He added a Master of Business Administration from Touro University in California in 2003.

After graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1998, Hayden joined the Air Force.



Lt. Col. Matthew Hayden.

(Photo courtesy Luke Air Force Base)

During his service, he amassed more than 2,500 flight hours on 30 different aircraft types. He had operational experience with the F-16, and he also served as an experimental test pilot for the F-16 and F-35.

Hayden flew F-16s in support of operations Iraqi Freedom, Southern Watch and Northern Watch. He was also assigned as the developmental test and evaluation lead for the Joint Strike Fighter Program Office in Arlington, Virginia.

"The sun rose and set on those two baby girls of his," Richardson says. "He went to great lengths to be the best husband and father he could be. That combination of character is hard to find. He'll be missed." ■

Friends have set up a fundraising page at <http://bit.ly/2UP4euJ>.



Debris at the crash site where Lt. Col. Matthew Hayden's plane crashed March 17. *(Courtesy Union County Sheriff's Office)*



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BY SOUND OF FREEDOM STAFF

As the summer vacation season goes into full swing, so do Vitalant's efforts to ramp up blood donations. While blood drives normally provide more than half of Arizona's blood supply, donor vacations and school recesses prevent many organizations from hosting them during the summer months.

The weeks surrounding the Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day holidays are the most difficult time of the summer to meet patient blood needs. To help solve this problem, Luke Air Force Base has scheduled several blood drives throughout the summer to make it convenient to donate. For locations and to make an appointment to give blood at a Luke Air Force Base blood drive or at Vitalant's Goodyear Donor Center, simply visit bloodhero.com or call 1-877-258-4825 (1-877-25-VI-

TAL). Donors with base access credentials can use the sponsor code LAFB to make an appointment. While donors of all blood types are needed, O-negative is always in greatest demand.

Transform lives this summer by giving blood this summer and be automatically entered to win a 2019 Volkswagen Passat Wolfsburg Edition. The Valley Volkswagen dealers have donated the car and partnered with Vitalant's in the 10th annual campaign to help inspire more people to give blood this summer. Ten finalists will be drawn from among Arizona's May 24 to September 6 blood donors to participate in the grand prize ceremony. They will be unveiled throughout the summer on AZ-TV, media partner for the "Summer Drive to Save Lives" campaign.

During the three-month summer campaign with Valley Volkswagen dealers, Vitalant hopes to attract about 50,000 blood donors to save lives in Arizona hospitals. Those donors will help teens like Hayley, who will celebrate her 19th birthday on May 31 thanks to 95 blood donors. She was born with Diamond Blackfan Anemia, a rare disease that prevented her body from producing red blood cells. She relied on the kindness of strangers to provide lifesaving blood transfusions every month until she was able to receive a bone marrow transplant. "Blood donors gave our daughter the chance to play, jump and laugh like other children," said her mom, Melana. "They are true heroes." ■

O-Negative Blood

In emergency situations when there is no time to determine a patient's blood type, doctors depend on O-negative blood to sustain life until the patient can be stabilized. An ample supply gives transfusion options when shortages of other blood types arise. Doctors also routinely rely on O-negative blood when premature babies and infants under 6 months old require lifesaving transfusions.



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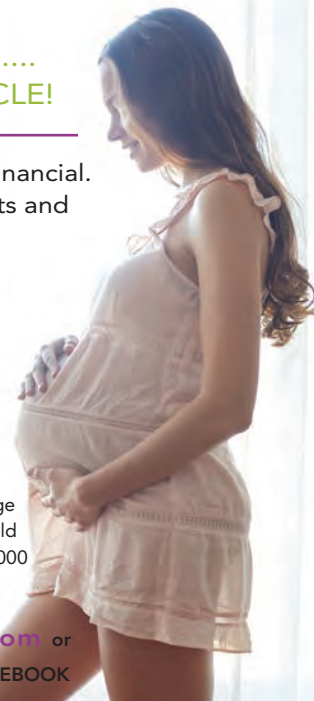
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Glendale Community College offers more than 100 degrees and certificate programs and it has a Veterans Services Center, making it a great option for those who serve or reside in the West Valley. (Photo Courtesy of Luke Air Force Base)

Making the *Right Move*

Consider the many advantages of community colleges

BY SOUND OF FREEDOM STAFF

Military service personnel, whether active duty, retiring or retired, find it necessary to reinvent themselves and pursue additional education to meet the demands of a technology-driven future.

Furthering education is an important next step in achieving goals to secure a successful future. There are several things then to consider: what subject(s) to study, the payment methods, the type of school and which school.

Future job trends should be considered. This allows the prospective student to align his or her skillset and interests with the workforce needs of the near and foreseeable future.

Tuition costs can vary widely. Scholarships are aplenty, so be sure to research many of them. Lastly, apply for federal student aid to secure financial aid.

Determining the best type of school to attend can depend largely on the chosen field of study. Schools that specialize in certain fields have a narrow focus with limited of-

ferings and students often miss out on many educational opportunities.

The bottom line is that prospective students should consider a fully accredited school that allows them to affordably explore numerous options and pursue a wide variety of courses in the chosen field of study.

Community colleges are perfect for students who are looking for an affordable way to build a strong educational foundation, explore their passions, get credentials and earn a degree.

Those who serve, work or reside in the West Valley should consider Glendale Community College. GCC's tuition is extremely affordable, it offers more than 100 degree and certificate programs plus it has a Veterans Services Center.

VSC is a one-stop shop for veterans wishing to transition from military life to civilian life through higher education. The academic advisers in the VSC assist in planning academic paths, identifying federal and state benefit options, certifying education benefits, and connecting veterans with services, both on campus and the surrounding community.



In addition to Active Duty Military Tuition Assistance, the GCC Veterans Services Center services six different VA education benefits. The VSC guides student veterans through degree planning as well as class selection and registration. The VSC's academic advisers are deeply knowledgeable on the countless scholarship and financial aid options that are available to veterans. GCC's services are not limited to academics. As part of the career counseling, the VSC advisers 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. ■



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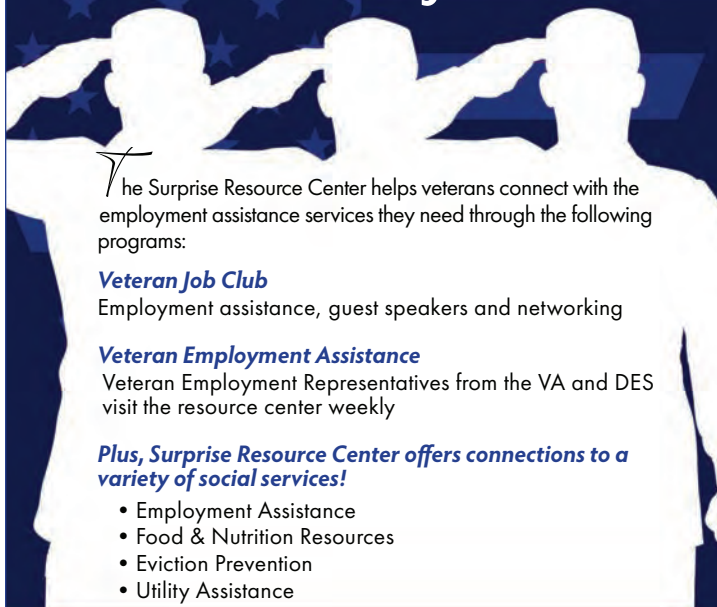
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Flying Colors

David Hosey looks at restored aircraft from WWII and other wars at the Arizona Wing of the Commemorative Air Force Museum in Mesa.

Interest in history takes off at Airbase Arizona Museum

BY KIMBERLY HOSEY

Sound of Freedom Staff Writer

Even though school is winding down, it's a great time to take a field trip with your kids. Explore aircraft, uniforms and more from World War I to the Vietnam War; pretended to be waist gunners and pilots in a World War II legend and studied a little bit of history and engineering all in one morning—at the Airbase Arizona Museum in Mesa.

Located at Falcon Field Airport and dubbed “The World’s Largest Flying Museum,” the facility has housed restored aircraft and other historical military and aviation exhibits for 40 years. The main museum boasts about 30,000 square feet of exhibit space, and the working museum adds to that a vintage aircraft maintenance hangar of another 28,000 square feet and an operating aircraft ramp of twice that.

When I visited with my son, a docent guided us to the main exhibit hall and gave us an overview of the museum and the history it preserves—and the folks here are passionate about preserving history

The museum is part of the Commemorative

Air Force; a nonprofit dedicated to restoring, preserving and displaying historical aircraft at sites and on tours. CAF

operates more than 80 units worldwide, and Airbase Arizona Museum is its largest.

Individual tickets and group tours can be purchased online or at the front desk, and grant admission to the main exhibit area, working hangar and an outside area. You will need to be accompanied by a docent for the working hangar and outdoor area.

The main hall was engaging as well as informative—we viewed a couple dozen aircraft and pored over exhibits and text on the Tuskegee Airmen, Flying Tigers, Women’s Airforce Service Pilots and more. My son marveled over the thin helmets and sparse protection airmen wore just a few decades ago and turned the crankshaft in a radial air-



Sentimental Journey, an American B-17 Flying Fortress, restored with pinup art of Betty Grable popular during WWII.

craft engine. The entire experience at the museum is designed to walk visitors through the evolution of aircraft from the World War I era to today.

After we’d fully explored the main hall, the docent rejoined us and took us on a tour of the working hangar, where volunteers worked on restoration projects. We especially enjoyed stepping aboard a military transport aircraft as we learned about its rich history; including missions to Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece and Albania.

Outside, we visited “Sentimental Journey,” an American B-17 Flying Fortress bomber. The plane, complete with World War II-era

SEE CAF PAGE 40

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COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

CAF FROM PAGE 38

Betty Grable pin-up art on the nose; is a massive, four-engine heavy bomber built in 1944.

After a brief tour and presentation on the plane's mechanics, visitors were allowed to check out much of the inside of the craft—far enough up to look into, but stay out of, the cockpit and far enough back to pretend to be a gunner, which my son did with gusto.

When we noted the extremely tight squeeze between the fuselage and the cockpit, we were told the planes were primarily staffed by small pilots who were limber—because they were often 19 or 20 years old. When we realized how many didn't survive, we were left with a sense of awe and respect for the sacrifices so many made. This place brings history alive, in ways both exciting and sobering.

During the summer months (late May to October 1) the museum's two bombers tour the United States and Canada, but it offers aircraft displays all summer long, including the recently added "Tora Tora Tora Zero," a replica of a WWII Japanese Zero fighter plane used to reenact critical battles for films such as "Tora Tora Tora" and "Midway." Cockpit tours are available on Fridays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and include a Huey helicopter and North Korean MiG-15 fighter jet.

If you have a history buff or plane aficionado in your family, this museum is well worth a look. It offers nostalgia, education, adventure, photo opportunities, and a unique experience for all ages.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Plan to go early if you want to tour the outdoor areas while the weather is still comfortable.

Admission is \$5 for kids 5 to 12, \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors 62 and older. Children under 5, active military members, and disabled veterans are free. An annual pass is available for ages 12 and up, and includes admission to most special events, such as speakers, militaria shows, and more. For a splurge (between \$80 and \$850, depending on the seat and craft), take a "living history flight" on a meticulously maintained WWII-era warbird. Visit www.azcaf.org/fly-with-us to book a ride. ■

**Commemorative Air Force Airbase
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David Hosey looks at a Pratt and Whitney R-4360 Aircraft Engine.



Aircraft from WWII and other American conflicts, restored and displayed at the Arizona Wing of the Commemorative Air Force Museum in Mesa. Many fly guests on tours and in shows around the United States and Canada.



David Hosey checks out the waist gunner position inside Sentimental Journey, an American B-17 Flying Fortress.



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A Place to

USO Arizona allows military personnel to get a snack in the café, stay connected with computer kiosks and charging stations, as well as find other amenities such as a children's play area, a movie room, a gaming area and more. (Photo courtesy Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport)

Relax

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport has a USO room

BY SOUND OF FREEDOM STAFF

Did you know there is a special place at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport for traveling service members and their dependents?

USO Arizona is located in the airport's busiest terminal, Terminal 4. The USO features a quiet place for members of the military and their families to go before their flights. At the USO, they'll find a place to get a snack in the café, stay connected with computer kiosks and charging stations, as well as find other amenities such as a children's play area, a movie room, a gaming area and more.

USO Arizona welcomes all current military members (including National Guard and Reserves), their dependents and military retirees with a same day boarding pass. The USO in Terminal 4 is located before security on the East End of Level 2. It is open seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Staff and the many volunteers at the USO in Terminal 4 also work on other USO initiatives throughout the state. In fact, USO Arizona's goal is to provide morale-boosting and family strengthening programs to members of the military and their families. USO has a variety of

programs including deployed family support and events, barracks bashes, holiday events, sporting and entertainment events, kids' camps, welcome home kits for redeploying service members, baby showers and much more. For more information on USO Arizona, visit uso.org/Arizona. ■

For more information on all of Phoenix Sky Harbor's services and amenities as well as travel tips to make your journey go more smoothly, please visit skyharbor.com.



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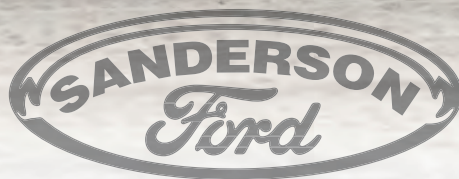


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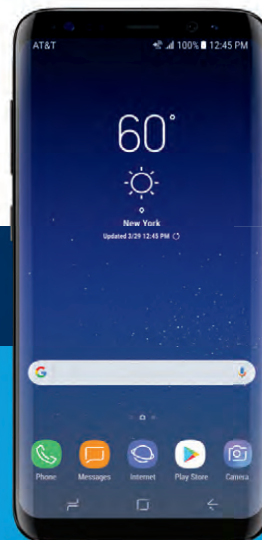




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