

The Luke Air Force Base Thunderbolt



Jan. 2023
Vol. 22, No. 1



2022

YEAR IN REVIEW



U.S. Air National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. James A. Richardson Jr.

AUG. 6: Three U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons from Luke Air Force Base prepare to be refueled by a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 161st Air Refueling Wing during a sortie over Arizona on Aug. 6, 2022. The 161st Air Refueling Wing out of Goldwater Air National Guard Base regularly conducts air refueling missions with their regional partners at Luke Air Force Base.

PHONE NUMBERS

Airman and Family Readiness Center	623-856-6550
Airman's Attic	623-856-6415
Armed Forces Bank	623-535-9766
Base Exchange main store	623-935-2671
Base taxi	623-856-6866
Beauty shop	623-536-1897
Chapel	623-856-6211
Chapel (after duty hours)	623-856-5600
Child development center	623-856-6338
Clothing sales	623-856-6310
Club Five Six	623-856-6446
Command post	623-856-5600
Commissary	623-935-3821
Community center	623-856-7152
Computer IT service desk	DSN 945-2900
Crime Stop	623-856-6666
Dental clinic	623-856-2273
Dermatology	623-856-2273
Dining hall	623-856-6396
Dorm management	623-856-7841
Education center	623-856-7722
EMERGENCY ONLY	911
Equal opportunity	623-856-7711
Eye clinic	623-856-7965
Falcon Dunes Golf Course	623-535-9334
Family health clinic	623-856-2273
Family housing	623-388-3515
Fire station	623-856-6641
Firestone Car Care	623-271-8104
Fitness center	623-856-6241
Flight medicine	623-856-2273
Food court	623-935-2671
Fort Tuthill	623-856-3401
Fraud, waste and abuse hotline	623-856-6149
Hobby shop	623-856-6722
Housing assistance section	623-856-7643
Housing facilities section	623-856-3007
Housing maintenance	623-935-2676
Identification cards	623-856-7832
Information, tickets and travel	623-856-6000
Law enforcement desk	623-856-5970
Legal assistance	623-856-6901
Library	623-856-7191
Lodging office/switchboard	623-856-3941
Maintenance control center	623-856-5469
Marine Corps	623-856-2417
Marine Corps 24-hour duty desk	602-421-5806
Marketing	623-856-3245
Medical appointments	623-856-2273
Military equal opportunity	623-856-7711
Military pay	623-856-7028
Navy Operations Support Center	602-353-3008
OB/GYN clinic	623-856-2273
Office of Special Investigations	623-856-6821
Optometrist	623-856-2273
Orthopedic clinic	623-856-2273
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Rodgers Travel	623-856-6894
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Security incidents	623-856-7777
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U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman David Busby

Airmen compete in Load Competition

JAN. 7: U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Joseph Harrison, 309th Aircraft Maintenance Unit aircraft armament system technician, prepares to load an F-35A Lightning II aircraft at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Harrison was participating in the quarterly load crew competition, where Airmen hone their skills to better prepare Luke AFB's fighters down-range. Teams of three Airmen competed against each other in preparing and loading their assigned aircraft the fastest, while still maintaining efficiency and proper procedure throughout the competition.

Treece wins Alison Award



Courtesy photo

JAN. 11: U.S. Air Force Capt. Daniel "Burn" Treece holds the 2021 United States Air Force Alison Award, after he was presented the award in a ceremony at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The award was established to recognize commissioned officers who exemplify the Air Force by demonstrating outstanding character and innovation.

Gossner brothers take flight



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman David Busby

JAN. 12: U.S. Air Force Capt. Sean "Echo" Gossner, 63rd Fighter Squadron F-35A Lightning II instructor pilot (left), and his brother 1st Lt. Nicholas "Trek" Gossner, 308th FS F-35A student pilot (right), step out to the flight line, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The brothers, from Peachtree, Georgia, dreamed about following their father into the U.S. Air Force. Today, that dream is a reality, and the brothers were able to fly together.



Courtesy photo

310th Squadron celebrates 80th anniversary

JAN. 28: Members of the 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron Corrosion Control Section gather for a photo in front of the 310th Fighter Squadron's 80th Anniversary Flagship F-16 Fighting Falcon, Jan. 28 at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The team worked long hours painting the heritage jet, which honors the squadron's history and pays tribute with a design inspired by one of the P-47 Thunderbolts flown in World War II.

Thunderbolt editorial staff

Publisher Aerotech News and Review
Editor KC Rawley
Designer Tinna Sellie
Advertising sales 877-247-9288

Luke Air Force Base

Commander Brig. Gen. Jason Reuschhoff
Public affairs chief Capt. Chris Herbert

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Luke reaches 90,000th flight hours

FEB. 1: Since its arrival in 2013, pilots have racked up more than 90,000 flight hours in the F-35A at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. With Luke AFB's dedicated pilots, maintainers and additional support personnel, the milestone was reached and surpassed with the next milestone on target.

U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Brooke Moeder

56th Fighter Wing annual awards

FEB. 18: Due to DOD restrictions on large gatherings and COVID limitations, rather than hold the 2021 annual awards banquet, wing leadership visited category winners and presented them with their award.



Courtesy photos

2021 Airman of the Year, Airman 1st Class Emily Perina, 56th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron.



2021 Non-commissioned Officer of the Year, Tech. Sgt. Justin Vaughn, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron.



Courtesy graphic

FEB. 18: The 56th Fighter Wing command team decided to cancel the March 2022 Luke Days air show event. Due to logistical and economic strain, as well as COVID-19 challenges, base leadership deemed it in the best interest of all parties to cancel the 2022 show and looks forward to overcoming these issues for future events.

Laptops enhance maintenance capability



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Collette Brooks

FEB. 3: U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Aaron Robosky, 61st Aircraft Maintenance Unit F-35A Lightning II assistant dedicated crew chief, uses a wireless capable ruggedized laptop during an F-35 inspection, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Prior to the wireless capable laptops being implemented in late 2021, flightline personnel had to leave their immediate work area, which created a time gap between task completion and the ability to update their maintenance systems.

Honor guard kicks off NASCAR race



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Noah D. Cogger

March 13: Guardsmen from the Luke Air Force Base Honor Guard present colors during the national anthem while four F-35A Lightning II aircraft assigned to the 61st Fighter Squadron fly overhead at the Phoenix Raceway, Arizona. During the ceremony, members from the Phoenix Boys Choir sang the national anthem to start NASCAR's Ruoff Mortgage 500. The 61st Fighter Squadron executed the flyby after providing direct support to a student pilot upgrade mission. Ceremonies like these are a part of community initiatives that allow Airmen to showcase long-standing traditions and U.S. Air Force heritage to the local community.

Ceremony honors Tuskegee Airmen

March 24: The ninth annual Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day celebration was held at Hangar 999, sponsored by Luke AFB's 944th and 56th Fighter Wings, and the Archer-Ragsdale Arizona Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Lt. Col. Stanley Brown Jr., president of the ARAC, kicked off the event followed by the invocation.

pilot in World War II. The event went on to feature a tribute to the ceremony's honoree, the late Tuskegee Airman, Brig. Gen. Charles E. McGee, who died Jan. 16, at the age of 102.

Porter spoke about how the escorts protecting the bombers were Tuskegee Airmen, and that he wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for the superb job provided by the escorts that made it possible for his father to return home safely from bombing missions.

Pastor Jim Porter, chaplain of the ARAC for 16 years, gave the invocation, sharing a touching story about his father, a B-17



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

Women of Weapons load munitions



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Phyllis Jimenez

March 11: U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Quinn Ball, 310th Aircraft Maintenance Unit weapons load crew chief, loads munitions onto an F-16D Fighting Falcon during the Women of Weapons Load Exhibition at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona.



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Month of Military Child celebrated



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Noah Coger

April 15: Friends and family show their support as children and staff of the Luke Air Force Base Child Development Center walk during a parade in honor of the Month of the Military Child at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The month is a nationally recognized celebration honoring military service members' children with an ever-increasing number of awareness campaigns to celebrate them worldwide. On both military installations and local military-connected communities, activities take place and everyone can participate.

19th AF Command visits Luke



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Phyllis Jimenez

April 6: U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Craig Wills, 19th Air Force commander, meets with Airmen assigned to the 56th Maintenance Group, during a heritage fighter aircraft tour at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Wills got an up-close look at one of Luke AFB's F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft. The 19th AF command team visited Luke AFB to engage with the 56th Fighter Wing members while gaining a better understanding of the successes and challenges faced by the wing. The 56th FW's mission is to train the world's greatest fighter pilots and combat-ready Airmen.

Luke surgeon recalls Antarctica duty



Courtesy photo

APR. 3: U.S. Air Force Maj. Matthew Wimmer, 56th Operations Group flight surgeon, poses for a photo in front of an LC-130 aircraft on the flightline of Amundson-Scott South Pole station, Antarctica, in 2021. Wimmer was selected for a temporary duty assignment in support of Operation Deep Freeze, an inter-continental mission located in one of the coldest and most austere environments on the Earth. Wimmer aided in six emergency medical evacuations and provided medical assistance on the ground at two primary Antarctic research hubs—McMurdo Station and Amundson-Scott South Pole Station.

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Exercise Crown Talon



U.S. Air Force photo by by Senior Airman Noah D. Cogger

MAY 4: U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 56th Fighter Wing place stanchions with M9 chemical agent detection paper around a potential hazardous site during Exercise Crown Talon at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. During the exercise, Airmen took part in a post-attack reconnaissance sweep in which they searched for unexploded ordnance and were face with various scenarios that simulated situations they may find in a contest environment.

National Police Week marked



U.S. Air Force photo by by Senior Airman Noah Cogger

MAY 15-21: Members of the 56th Security Forces Squadron work together to push a Humvee at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. In honor of National Police Week, the 56th Security Forces Squadron hosted a Defender's Challenge where participants had to work together as a team to complete various obstacles. Members performed litter carries, a Humvee push, medicine ball toss and more.

FW hosts Arizona delegation



U.S. Air Force photo by by Senior Airman David Busby

MAY 4: U.S. Air Force Capt. Brian "Nova" Kane, 56th Training Squadron F-35A Lightning II aircraft instructor pilot, directs Michael Tree, military and veterans' community liaison to U.S. Rep. Debbie Lesko, on the use of an F-35A Hands-On Throttle and Stick simulator at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Familiarization with Luke AFB equipment allows Tree and the Arizona Congressional Staff Delegation to better understand the Wing's mission, successes and challenges.

Leadership school named 'best'



U.S. Air Force photo by by Tech. Sgt. Clinton Atkins

JUNE 7: U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Gregory Kreuder, 56th Fighter Wing commander (left), addresses the student body of the John J. Rhodes Airman Leadership School after presenting the 2021 Outstanding AETC ALS of the Year award at the schoolhouse June 7, 2022, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Airman Leadership School is the first level of professional military education for Air Force enlisted service members.

RDAF visits Luke AFB



U.S. Air Force photo by by Airman Mason Hargrove

JUNE 15: Royal Danish Air Force Lt. Col. Nick Hansen (right), 308th Fighter Squadron senior national representative, familiarizes RDAF Maj. Gen. Jan Dam, Air Command Denmark commander, with the cockpit of the F-35A Lightning II jet during a visit June 15, 2022, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Luke AFB is the F-16 and F-35 pilot training location for five partner nations, allowing for increased interoperability between nations' Air Forces.

Luke celebrates selection of Master Sergeants



JUNE 20: Of the 27,296 technical sergeants eligible for promotion in the U.S. Air Force, 4,040 of those were selected to promote to the next rank of master sergeant. Team Luke celebrated the news with a Master Sergeant release party in honor of those from Luke AFB who made this year's list.

Courtesy photo

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56th FW changes command



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Mason Hargrove

JULY 29: U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Jason Rueschhoff, 56th Fighter Wing commander, renders his first salute to the men and women of the 56th FW after assuming command during the Wing change of command ceremony, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Rueschhoff is a command pilot with more than 2,800 hours in the F-35A, A-10A/C and AH 64-E, including 267 combat hours.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jakob Hambricht

Quarterly Weapons Load competition

JULY 22: Members of the 56th Maintenance Group unload a GBU-12 Paveway II bomb off an F-35A Lightning II during a weapons load competition at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, July 22, 2022. Four crews from different aircraft maintenance units participated in the competition, partaking in two heats of two teams. For quarterly awards, 56th Maintenance Group maintainers were tested on various subjects, such as the up-keep of their toolbox, their dress and appearance, and a 25-question knowledge test.

AETC leadership visits Luke AFB



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Mason Hargrove

JULY 20-21: U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Brian S. Robinson, commander of Air Education and Training Command, learns how the 56th Security Forces Squadron is integrating the new Weapons & Tactics program into training at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The leadership team visited units including the 62nd, 63rd, and 425th Fighter Squadrons, the 310th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, and the 607th Air Control Squadron.

Rueschhoff has first all-call



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Noah D. Coger

AUG. 5: U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Jason M. Rueschhoff, 56th Fighter Wing commander, speaks with an Airman from the 56th FW following his first all-call since taking command, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Rueschhoff personally met with Airmen, addressing questions, and talking about ideas for the future.

Refueled from above



U.S. Air National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. James A. Richardson Jr.

AUG. 6: Three U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons from Luke Air Force Base prepare to be refueled by a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 161st Air Refueling Wing during a sortie over Arizona. The 197th is part of the 161st Air Refueling Wing out of Goldwater Air National Guard Base and regularly conducts air refueling missions with their regional partners at Luke Air Force Base.

Block 25 F-16 aircraft retired



Photo by Senior Airman David Busby

SEPT. 6: Commanders, honorary commanders, and members of the 309th Fighter Squadron "Ducks" sign a retiring F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The F-16 will be flown to the 309th Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Group, or "Boneyard" at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, by U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Matthew "Fuse" Eldredge, 309th Fighter Squadron former commander, the next day.

Twins laid to rest



Courtesy photos

SEPT. 15: The "Thunderbirds" perform a double missing-man formation flyover as part of the funeral service for U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Cuthbert Pattillo and Lt. Gen. Charles Pattillo in Section 60 Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia. Ceremonial Brass Band, and the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, conduct military funeral honors with funeral escort for the twin brothers. The brothers were stationed at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, in the early 1950s, and were instrumental in starting the USAF Thunderbirds Aerial Demonstration Team.





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Honorary commanders inducted



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Jakob Hambricht

OCT. 14: U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Joshua Larsen, 56th Operation Support Squadron commander, coins Marc Hertzberg and Brandon Klippel, honorary commander inductees, during a ceremony at Luke Air Force Base. The honorary commander program seeks to help build relationships with the surrounding communities by connecting local and civic leaders with various unit commanders. Sixty-six civic and local leaders were inducted as part of the class of 2022.

Vietnam Security Police gather



Photo by Airman Mason Hargrove

OCT. 7: U.S. Air Force veterans listen to the memorial service speech during the Vietnam Security Police Association annual reunion. The 56th Security Forces Squadron hosted the 27th reunion for the Vietnam Security Police Association at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The VSPA is an association of U.S. Air Force veterans who served in Vietnam and Thailand between 1958 and 1975. The purpose of the organization is to preserve the history and legacy that was made in Southeast Asia.

Heart Link supports spouses



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman David Busby

OCT.19: Laura Smith, military spouse, shares her experiences at the Heart Link Spouse Orientation with other spouses and U.S. Air Force Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Compere, 56th Fighter Wing deputy wing chaplain. This orientation helps provide support for military spouses at Luke AFB, as they may encounter high-stress events such as deployments, sudden changes of station or other factors.

B1B Lancer trains at Luke



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman David Busby

NOV. 4: A U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer aircraft assigned to the 7th Bomb Wing at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, conducts off-station training at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The Lancer integration training with Luke AFB F-35A Lightning II aircraft was conducted to improve interoperability between the different U.S. Air Force airframes.

Luke F-35s train with B2-Spirits



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Noah D. Cogger

NOV. 15: Luke Air Force Base Airmen trained with U.S. Air Force B-2 Spirit bombers assigned to the 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Multiple bombers participated in an off-station training exercise with multi-nation assets. This was the first time that allied nation F-35 Lightning II aircraft integrated with U.S. Air Force B-2s in the United States. The B-2 fleet was grounded in December after several incidents.

Fournier advances to Spark Tank quarterfinals



Air Force file photo by Senior Airman Grace Lee

NOV. 22: U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Daniel Fournier (then Staff Sgt) from the 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, shown here in a 2016 photo, advanced to the quarterfinals of the 2023 AFW-ERX Spark Tank Challenge. The ideas selected as the winners for AETC were Administrative Data Analysis and Maintenance Matrix program (A.D.A.M.M.), presented by Fournier and the Agile Content Evolution and Deployment (ACED), presented by U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Errick Wernecke, Air Force Safety Center superintendent of nuclear missile systems.

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Listing Title: Cloudbreak Communities

Listing Category: General

Website: <http://www.cloudbreakcommunities.com>

Phone: (310) 568-9100

Address:

414 S Marengo Ave, Pasadena, CA
91101

Listings

Antelope Valley Florist

[Return to Directory](#)



Listing Category: General

Description:

"We want to be involved in all of life's celebrations," said Chris Spicher, owner of Antelope Valley Florist. His father opened the Lancaster business in 1953, and now four generations have provided flowers for big events, venue parties, business gifts, thank-you bouquets, birthdays, and weddings.

"It's a great way to be involved in the community."

Spicher said that people can come by and pick out flowers, order online, or have them delivered. "We can sell a single rose or so much more." Flowers are a gracious way to show someone you care. "Love and respect are always in fashion," said Spicher. He added that ordering a day ahead is the way to get the freshest flowers.

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NOV. 23: Royal Canadian Air Force Airmen from 42 Radar Squadron and U.S. Air Force Airmen from the 607th Air Control Squadron control simulated airspaces. Interoperability is a key component of the collective ability to address global security challenges. Exercise Swift Strike aims to strengthen interoperability for American and Canadian air controllers and air battle managers.

U.S. Air Force photo illustrations by Airman 1st Class Jakob Hambricht

Exercise Swift Strike



NOV. 23: U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. William Heines, 607th Air Control Squadron weapons director, controls a simulation system during exercise Swift Strike, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona.

Fiesta Bowl Parade



DEC. 17: U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Jason Rueschhoff, 56th Fighter Wing commander hands out American flag souvenirs during the Fiesta Bowl Parade in Phoenix, Arizona. This year, over 3,000 men, women and children participated in the event which featured various decorated floats, giant balloons, antique cars, charitable groups, local military and law enforcement organizations, marching bands and more.

U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Dominic Tyler



DEC. 17: U.S. Air Force Airmen and Primavera Folklorico Dance Company performers pose for a photo during the Fiesta Bowl Parade in Phoenix. This year marks the 50th edition of the Fiesta Bowl Parade which honors individuals or groups whose actions show a commitment to driving economic growth, championing charitable causes, and executing innovative experiences.

POTUS tours semiconductor facility



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Noah D. Coger

DEC. 6: U.S. President Joseph R. Biden disembarks Air Force One at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, Dec. 6, 2022. Members of the 56th Fighter Wing supported President Biden's visit to Arizona, where he toured a newly constructed semiconductor manufacturing facility.

Chaplain's Corner ...

The Impact of Influence

by Chaplain (Capt.)
JEFF RYBOLD



Chaplain (Capt.) Jeff Rybold

As a young child, I recall heading east from the Jefferson City area in Missouri to St. Louis for a visit to The Gateway Arch. When we got to the top, we had a beautiful view of the Mississippi River. It was a beautiful sight. I also remember every Christmas we would drive up to La Crosse, Wisconsin, to visit my grandparents. La Crosse is a wonderful city right on the coast of the same Mississippi River.

In Missouri the river is a couple hundred feet wide. In Wisconsin, however, the river is several miles wide. The Mississippi River is one of the greatest river systems in the world but starts out only a couple feet deep and maybe 20 feet wide. On the other hand, at the widest point, the river spans 11 miles.

What is it that makes this river so unique? The tributaries. The entire Mississippi River tributary system is enormous, spanning 32 states and two Canadian provinces. The longest complete connection is 3,700 miles long. All in all, the tributaries are what make the Mississippi so great.

So, what is a tributary? Most dictionaries define a tributary as a river or stream that flows into another body of water. The tributaries that pour into the Mississippi are what makes this river such an awe-

some body of water. Every river continually and consistently pours into the flowing river, both good and bad, and the result of that contribution exits in the Gulf of Mexico.

How does this apply to you? What connection can you make to this mighty river? Think of tributaries as influence. Influence is defined as the capacity to change or affect someone or something else.

The influence pouring into your life is a major determining factor in who you are as a person. The people pouring or investing into your life will greatly affect the path your life carves out. They will also typically influence the flow of emotions moving you and, most importantly, what type of person you are going to be.

Unlike the Mississippi River, you have full control about what tributaries pour into your life. My encouragement for you today is to surround yourself with positive influence. Keep close to those who have dreams, ambition, and desires for success. They are the ones who will push you in a positive direction and influence you toward being a positive person.



Women IN AEROSPACE AND MILITARY SPECIAL EDITION

March is **Women's History Month**: celebrating, honoring and educating Americans on the achievements of women throughout American history. On **February 24, 2023**, each of Aerotech News and Review's publications will publish a special edition dedicated to the achievements of women in the military and aerospace. These issues are sure to be informative, thought-provoking and wonderful keepsake editions.

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