

Desert Lightning News

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Serving Southern Nevada's military community, including Nellis, Creech and NTTR

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NELLIS HOSTS AVIATION NATION 2022



Air Force photograph

The weather was perfect Nov. 5 and 6 as Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., opened its gates to the general public for Aviation Nation 2022.

Featuring the USAF Thunderbirds aerial display team, this is considered by some to be the Thunderbirds homecoming as it is the last show of the season for the Nellis-based team.

This was the first air show at Nellis since 2019.

Overwhelming praise came from attendees posting on social media.

"Amazing Air show! The weather was excellent and the displays on the ground and in the air were fantastic," Carlos Rojas, via Facebook.

"We were there today, and had a GREAT time. Thanks to everyone who made this happen. Now when we hear them from the house we have a better idea of how things go," Mary K.

Bruzek, via Facebook.

"Thank you for the wonderful air show this past weekend, my first time back on the flight line at Nellis in 51 1/2 years since I left after one year stationed at Nellis in May 1971," John Leichter, via Facebook.

Alongside the Thunderbirds, the crowd were thrilled by a variety of aircraft including the F-35, the F-22 the C-17 and more. There were also

displays from Aftershock, a Joint Tactical Air Control demonstration, and a SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape) demo.

On the ground, attendees could view an MQ-9 Reaper, and F-15, T-6A, T-38, B-52, a KC-46 and many other military and civilian aircraft.

The next Aviation air show at Nellis will be November 2024.

— For more photos, see Pages 8-9

'Five and Thrive' program's focus on quality of life helps families, national security in AF's 75th year

by Sharene Brown

Military families are at the heart of this nation and Five and Thrive is about military families.

It is a grassroots effort created to support and communicate viable quality-of-life programs and resources while highlighting various challenges military families face in five focus areas. The five areas are — childcare, education, health-care, housing and spouse employment.

By highlighting preventative measures, promoting best practices, and fostering community partnerships in these five areas, this effort aims to provide Department of the Air Force families with the best communication, support, and opportunities to thrive.

The need for these services is well known. So are the challenges to success. As we continue celebrating the Air Force's 75th anniversary this year, we cannot lose sight of the fact that families play a critical role in keeping the U.S. Air Force the best in the world.

Like many American households, Air Force families are not immune from the problems and stress surrounding childcare, education, housing, health care and finding fulfilling jobs.

We know too that difficulty in one area can influence another, potentially creating a continuous cycle of struggle. I know this is true for our local civilian populations as well, but I believe it is magnified for our military families due to constant moves, lack of family support, and other stressors related to our military way of life, such as deployments.

Many are suffering due to the current housing crisis where families are required to move but are unable to find affordable and safe housing in their new location. This continuous cycle of struggle can lead to other challenges, including food insecurity where some of our military families continue to suffer alone because they are too ashamed to seek help. We cannot do this alone...we need our civilian communities to help us solve these challenges.



Air Force photograph

Sharene Brown, wife of Gen. CQ Brown, Air Force Chief of Staff

These examples, and many more, are why I collaborated with a small group of volunteer Air and Space Force spouses, known as the Thrive Team, to create Five and Thrive. This initiative provides a pathway of communication, an awareness of support and resources, as well as a facilitation of quality-of-life partnerships to help families overcome these types of challenges. This was the overarching vision behind Five and Thrive.

The importance of ensuring safe and satisfied military families is larger than the family itself. There is a direct correlation to our nation's security since the strength military spouses and families bring to the fight ultimately improves the readiness, resilience, and retention of the entire force.

Spouses are now and have always been an important part of our Air Force heritage. Their roots run deep in our Air Force history, and we are thankful to those who forged the path for future spouses to cultivate as they grow and thrive. My "Spouses in the Fight" series shows how spouses of the past inspire

our spouses today, and I know they will continue to do so in the future if we keep their memory alive. Here are two impressive examples in the history of "Spouses in the Fight:"

Gladys Vandenberg

Vandenberg, wife of the second chief of staff of the Air Force, would often walk the hallowed grounds of Arlington Cemetery with Gen. Vandenberg. It was during these walks that she noticed Airmen being buried without any family present. Moved to action, she decided to personally attend each service, ensuring that no Airman was ever laid to rest without a member of their Air Force family present.

Eventually, the Arlington Committee was created and since 1948, no matter the weather, Arlington Ladies and Gentlemen serve our Department of the Air Force service members today as they are honorably laid to rest. As spouses in the fight often do, they inspired others to do the same: the Army established their Arlington Ladies in 1972, the Navy in 1986, and the Coast Guard in 2006.

Helen LeMay

In 1961, LeMay, spouse of the Air Force Chief of Staff General LeMay, began leading a community effort to start the Air Force Village, a place widows could find affordable housing. As we all know, it sometimes takes a village to start a village and through the help of many spouses, Air Force Village became a reality. The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation was later founded to help widows and widowers of all Air Force retirees through financial grants. Today, the Air Force Village is called Blue Skies of Texas and is open to civilians and military of all services no matter where they live.

These spouses of yesterday amaze me as much as our spouses today inspire me. As we celebrate the Air Force's 75th Anniversary, I cannot help but reflect on the wonderful heritage we have. I like to think that we are all "spouses in the fight" just by helping each other and our military families every day.

I hope that I can contribute to this rich heritage even just a little bit by encouraging and supporting all DAF families through Five and Thrive. I also hope that it can serve, like these heritage stories, as a beacon of hope for all "Spouses in the Fight."

You can learn more about Five & Thrive at <https://www.fiveandthrive.org/> and Spouses in the Fight at <https://www.fiveandthrive.org/spouses-in-the-fight>.

Editor's note: Sharene Brown is the spouse to the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, Gen. CQ Brown Jr., and proud mother to two boys. She has more than three decades of experience advocating for military families and is a devoted champion for military spouses, recognizing their unique strengths and valuable contributions to our Armed Forces and nation. This led her to create a grassroots initiative known as Five & Thrive in 2021. This passion-led effort is designed to consolidate resources, highlight preventative measures, promote best practices, foster community partnerships, and encourage military families to thrive!



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The deadline for submissions to Desert Lightning News is no later than Monday, 4:30 p.m., the week of desired publication date.

For all submissions, a name and phone number of a person to contact must be included in the event questions arise.

All material is edited for accuracy, brevity, clarity and conformity to the AP Style Guide, to include military ranks and proper writing etiquette.

Corrections: Desert Lightning News staff members strive for accuracy each week. If you notice an error in fact, contact the Desert Lightning News staff at 334-718-3509, or e-mail editor@aerotechnews.com, and we will consider publishing a correction when appropriate.

Desert Lightning News, So. Nevada edition can also be viewed online @ www.aerotechnews.com

Joint teams conduct first F-22 in-flight tests for aircrew CBRN protection

by Airman 1st Class Makenna Gott
Nellis AFB, Nev.

The U.S. Air Force conducted the first in-flight vapor purge tests on the F-22 Raptor with the support of the 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron and the 59th Test Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Oct. 13-21, 2022.

These tests are a continuation of the Next Generation Aircrew Protection program, which will ensure current and future aircrew gear and operation concepts will modernize rapidly to meet emerging threats while maximizing aircrew performance and protection.

“We want to give the aircrew the highest overall performance they can maintain while being in a contested environment,” said 1st Lt. Andrew DeNicola, 28th Test and Evaluations Squadron test engineer.

Researchers are evaluating the time it takes to clear the cockpit of a chemical simulant during flight. They use methyl salicylate, known as wintergreen oil, which is used as flavoring agent in chewing gums and mints. This chemical simulant is safe for the pilot, yet mimics the effects and properties of known chemical warfare agents.

U.S. Air Force test and evaluation personnel placed specialized testing equipment in the cockpit and on the pilot. Then the methyl salicylate was sprayed into the aircraft’s engines before takeoff to measure the speed at which concentration of the chemical during flight are eliminated. With this information, researchers determined the time and conditions needed to purge a contaminant from the cockpit, enabling development of informed concepts of operation.

“These novel tests will provide decision superiority to commanders on the current capabilities of protection for their aircrews, allowing them to effectively and safely generate combat airpower in a Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear contested environment, which is critical to deterring our near-peer adver-



Air Force photographs by Airman 1st Class Makenna Gott

Maj. Anthony Hill, a pilot assigned to the 199th Fighter Squadron, Hawaii Air National Guard, is prepped for his flight at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Oct. 19, 2022. Hill is assisted the 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron as part of a larger Department of Defense effort to evaluate cockpit environmental conditions after a simulated chemical weapon attack.

saries,” said Lt. Col. Paul D. Hendrickson, Materiel Leader for Air Force CBRN Defense Systems Branch part of the Air Force Agile Combat Support Director-

ate. “At the same time, we’re dramatically improving our ability to modernize and field the right next-generation protective capabilities to our warfighters at the

speed of relevance ... saving both time and money.”

Steve Singleton, NGAP Program Manager from the AF CBRN Defense Systems Branch further elaborated that “following the successful initial efforts in 2018 where we conducted ground tests on the F-22, F-15E, F-15C, F-16 and A-10 aircraft, we learned enough to move forward with our in-flight tests which we started in 2020 on a C-130J and now on the F-15E and F-22. These tests directly support Pacific Air Forces Fight Tonight requirement and are underpinned by the recently published National Security Strategy.”

This collaborative effort by the Air Force’s CBRN Defense Systems Branch along with the Joint Program Executive Office for CBRN Defense, the Air Force Research Laboratory’s 711th Human Performance Wing and 28th Test and Evaluation Squadron is aligned to conduct evaluations across multiple DOD airframe platforms over the next few years.

First Lt. Gunnar Kral, the Lead Engineer for NGAP with the AF CBRN Defense Systems Branch added “If a pilot must operate in a chemically contaminated environment, they have their chem suit, their gloves and mask and it can reduce their capabilities to execute at maximum performance. What we are doing through the Next Generation Aircrew Protection Program is investigating how we can reduce their protection levels safely, allowing them to maximize mission effectiveness to fly, fight and win.”



An F-22 Raptor assigned to the 53rd Wing, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., idles while researchers from the 711th Human Performance Wing spray wintergreen-scented oil into the intakes prior to testing at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Oct. 17, 2022. This test is part of a larger Department of Defense effort to evaluate cockpit environmental conditions after a simulated chemical weapon attack.

An F-22 Raptor assigned to the 53rd Wing, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., idles while researchers from the 711th Human Performance Wing spray wintergreen-scented oil into the intakes prior to testing at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Oct. 17, 2022.



Annual 'DASH FOR DANIELLE' focuses on domestic violence



Air Force photographs

Airmen at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., recently took part in the third Annual Dash for Danielle Memorial Run. Two years ago, the Nellis First Sergeant Council tragically and unexpectedly lost one of their own, Master Sgt. Danielle Lynch, to domestic violence. As a way for the council to heal and honor Danielle, they set up an Annual Run-A-Thon called "Dash for Danielle."



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Air Force photograph by Airman 1st Class Trevor Bell

Several members of the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference are given a demonstration on the operation of the MQ-9 reaper with sensor operators from the 11th Attack Squadron during an immersion tour at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., Oct. 26, 2022. The Reaper is employed primarily as an intelligence-collection asset and secondarily against dynamic execution targets.



Air Force photograph by Airman 1st Class Makenna Gott

Members of the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference pose for a group photo in front of an F-35 Lightning II during the program's 93rd iteration tour at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Oct. 26, 2022. With aerodynamic performance and advanced integrated avionics, the F-35A provides next-generation stealth, enhanced situational awareness and reduced vulnerability for the United States and allied nations.

SECDEF's oldest outreach program visits Nevada's premier USAF bases

by Michael J. Hasenauer
Nellis AFB, Nev.

The Joint Civilian Orientation Conference's 93rd iteration toured Creech and Nellis Air Force Bases in Nevada on Oct. 26, 2022, and witnessed firsthand how the U.S. Air Force is prepared to win the future fight.

Their day started at Creech, where they learned about the MQ-9 Reaper's capability, weapons capacity and munitions systems. Participants were able to sit in the pilot and sensor operator seats while members from the 11th Attack Squadron explained flying techniques and target tracking while in flight.

Afterward, participants traveled to the Nevada Test and Training Range, where they were treated to a combat, search



Air Force photograph by Airman 1st Class Makenna Gott

Brian Gott, Joint Civilian Orientation Course 93 participant, looks through a Pocket Laser Range Finder at the 6th Combat Training Squadron during the programs 93rd iteration tour at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Oct. 26, 2022. The 6th CTS showed the JCOC how the U.S. Air Force is prepared to win the future fight and its current capabilities.

and rescue demonstration on the NTTR. They observed U.S. Air Force Weapons School Combat Search and Rescue Airmen, A-10 Thunderbolt IIs, HH-60 Pave Hawks and MQ-9s participating in a scenario focused on blue force recovery of two survivors within a few kilometers of the JCOC viewing area. The group then witnessed simulated attacks and a show-of-force from A-10s tasked to protect the HH-60s and survivors.

Next, the tour transitioned to Nellis Air Force Base with a short ride on a C-130 Hercules, where they were welcomed by the 57th Wing Vice Commander, Col. Conor W. Hiney.

The day continued with an overview of Shadow Operation Center-Nellis capabilities, emphasizing system and technological initiatives on the leading edge of Air Battle Management Systems development, followed by the 6th Combat Training Squadron and Joint Terminal Attack Controller Airmen.

At the 6th CTS, JCOC participants observed JTACs reacting to a narrated simulation of an ambush supported by A-10s and had a hands-on experience with Tactical Air Control Party equipment and tactical gear.

The last stop for JCOC was on Nellis' flight line, where an F-35A Lightning II was on display. Briefers talked about the F-35's capabilities and the role of the Air Force's newest Aggressor squadron. JCOC members learned how the 65th Aggressor Squadron prepares joint and allied exercise participants with high-end training to compete and win against the pacing threat.

"It was a privilege to host the JCOC 93 team at Nellis AFB today and share the U.S. Air Force story with such an amazing group of individuals. Part of what makes Nellis so special is our relationship

with the Las Vegas community, and it was great to expand that community to leaders from across the U.S. I'm thrilled that the JCOC team was able to see what we do at Nellis and, more importantly, meet the airmen who do amazing things to generate airpower for our great country," said Hiney.

Established in 1948, JCOC is the oldest Secretary of Defense-sponsored outreach program. JCOC alumni include CEOs of Fortune 100 companies, nonprofit organizations, presidents of universities and



Air Force photograph by Airman 1st Class Trevor Bell

An A-10 Thunderbolt II strafes overhead during a combat search and rescue scenario held for participants of the 93rd Joint Civilian Orientation Conference tour at Creech and Nellis Air Force Bases, Nev., Oct. 26, 2022. The JCOC group acted as a Counter-CSAR threat which required simulated attacks and shows of force from the A-10s to protect the HH-60s and survivors.

public administrators from metropolitan cities.

Leaders in civilian professions, organizations and communities make up the JCOC. DOD officials, military departments and JCOC alums chose the members from hundreds of applicants to learn more about the military and the men and women who serve. The Army,

Marine Corps, Navy, Air and Space Forces and Coast Guard fully immerse the participants during their tenure in the program.

To kick off this year's JCOC, Secretary Austin stated on social media, "It's a pleasure to welcome business and community leaders who are participating in the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference. This important program helps create a greater understanding of the skills learned and sacrifices made by our military members."

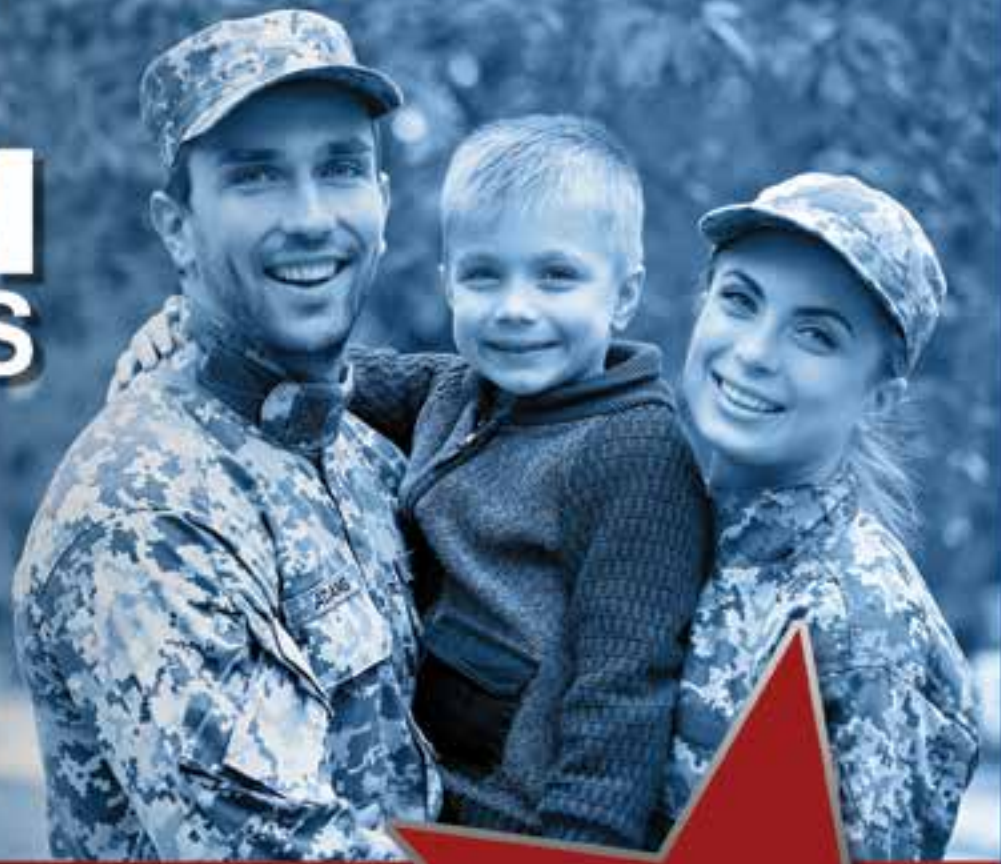


Air Force photograph by Airman 1st Class Trevor Bell

Tech Sgt. Phillip DeFraties from the 414th Combat Training Squadron introduces the combat search and rescue portion of the tour that included A-10 Thunderbolt IIs and HH-60 Pave Hawks participating in a scenario focused on recovering two survivors within a few kilometers of the JCOC viewing area on the Nevada Test and Training Range Oct. 26, 2022. The JCOC group acted as a Counter-CSAR threat which required simulated attacks and shows of force from the A-10s to protect the HH-60s and survivors.

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ON NATION 2022



Air Force photograph

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North Las Vegas opens Veterans, Community resource center

On Oct. 27, 2022, the City of North Las Vegas held a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially unveil the new North Las Vegas Veterans and Community Resource Center.

The center is located at 3090 E. Centennial Parkway, North Las Vegas.

The innovative facility officially opened to the public Oct. 31 with programming ramping up in the coming weeks. The 1,920-square-foot center is open to veterans, active duty service members, and the public, providing a variety of services and activities for the community.

“The vision of my fellow council members and I was to provide a safe and friendly place for the community and those who have served to connect with resources and services, convene for programming and new opportunities, and enjoy social activities with friends and family,” Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Goynes-Brown said. “We look forward to working with our community partners to help folks achieve more economic, housing, financial and health success and well-being.”

The North Las Vegas Veterans and Community Resource Center team will work hand-in-hand with Veterans and residents by offering a wide range of programs and services. Service areas include employment (i.e. career exploration workshops, mock interviews, job searches), housing (i.e. social services resource fairs, grants programs), education (i.e. computer classes, career training), mental health and well-being (i.e. stress control, substance abuse management,

service referrals), finance (i.e. financial literacy workshops, budgeting, credit building), legal (i.e. informational fairs, classes, legal document preparation). The center will be open Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, call 702-633-1640.

The North Las Vegas Veterans and Community Resource Center is the latest in a series of innovative initiatives from the City of North Las Vegas to give back to the veteran community, including the creation of CARE (Community Approach to Rehabilitation and Engagement) and Veterans Court programs,



Courtesy photos

which offer a specialized Treatment Court programs for those who have been accused of non-violent crimes and could benefit from root-cause interventions to reduce recidivism. Additionally, through

the North Las Vegas Small Business Connector, the city has funded and supported nearly three dozen veteran-owned businesses in just the past year. The City also utilizes strategic recruitment practices

to increase veteran hiring and launched the North Las Vegas Veterans Community Commission to increase input and engagement with the City among those who have served our country.

There is a new traffic light at the Landings Gate!



Air Force photographs

Left is the the new traffic light at Landings Gate and Craig Road, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., on Oct. 25, 2022. “The Landings Gate Traffic Light is a big win for Team Nellis and the Las Vegas Community as countless commuters and pedestrians now have safer access to their homes, places of work and bus stops,” said Col. Joshua D. Demotts, 99th Air Base Wing commander. “A lot of times, as commuters, we take for granted what traffic lights do for us,” the colonel continued. “We especially take for granted how many organizations it takes to get one approved and installed. We would like to thank Clark County, the City of North Las Vegas, the Regional Transportation Commission, the Nevada Department of Transportation and NV energy who partnered alongside Nellis to obtain approval to build and install this traffic light. It was no easy effort and the only way we crossed the finish line was through these great community partnerships.”

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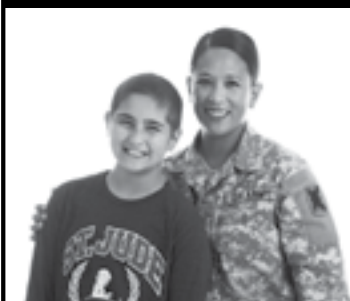


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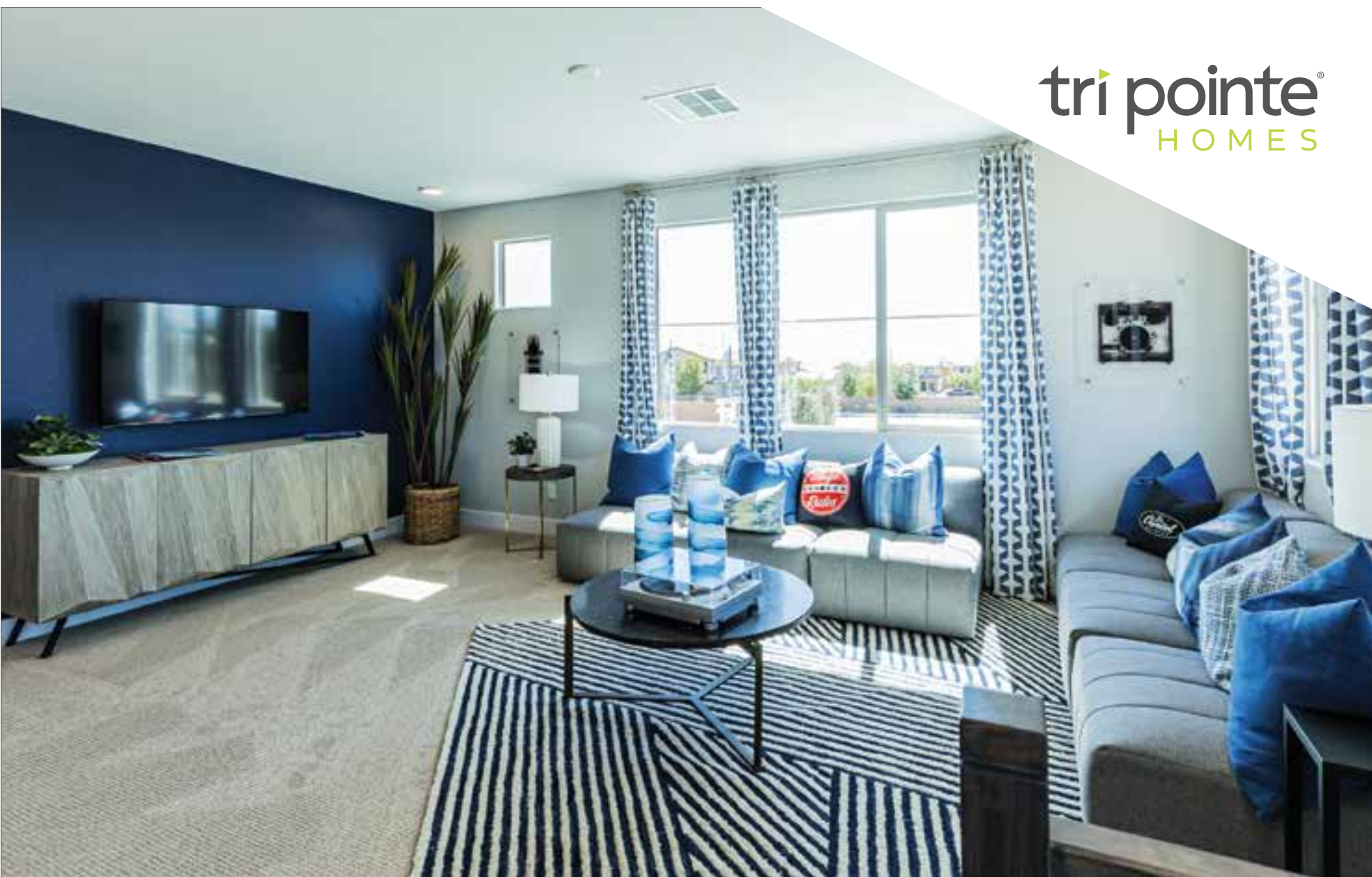
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