

The Luke Air Force Base Thunderbolt

“We train the world’s greatest fighter pilots and combat ready Airmen”

Dec. 2022
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INSIDE

STORIES

- Arizona Cardinals visit Luke, 2
- Royal Norwegian AF hits 10,000 hours, 3
- RCAF flies in Swift Strike, 6
- Retirees hosted by Luke, 11
- Luke celebrates Thanksgiving, 13

FEATURE



Byline

B2'S TRAIN WITH LUKE FIGHTERS

See Page 8,9

F-35 fighters test 173rd Fighter Wing's ample range space



U.S. Air National Guard photos by Master Sgt. Jefferson Thompson

A U.S. Air Force F-35 Lightning II takes off before the Mt. Stukel skyline, which overlooks the Kingsley Field runway Oct. 20, 2022, in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Initially, the visiting 63rd Fighter Squadron from Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, focused on their F-35 specific training with 10 sorties in the morning and eight more later in the day

By Master Sgt.
JEFFERSON THOMPSON

173rd Fighter Wing

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. — A squadron of the one of the Nation’s most advanced fighter aircraft traveled from Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, to the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls, Oregon, for a two-week stint in late October 2022.

The 63rd Fighter Squadron, flying 14 F-35 Lightning II fighter jets, integrated with wing F-15 Eagles and contract F-5 adversary aircraft while also accomplishing airframe specific training during their stay.

“They are also a training unit, like us,” said U.S. Air National Guard Col. Lee Bouma, the 173rd Fighter Wing commander. “They are here to increase their training—their ramp is very busy; their airspace is very busy—and

we have the ability to host them up here in some amazing airspace and get them some training for their students that they can’t readily get at home.”

Over their 13-day stay, the visiting unit flew 345 sorties, and tallied nearly 500 flying hours.

“Out in the airspace it’s been awesome, that was one of the big draws coming out here—the large airspace, with the accessibility that we sometimes miss at home station,” said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Mark Schnell, the 63rd Fighter Squadron commander.

Accessibility essentially means that the training time on the range is flexible, so if maintenance crews need extra time to get aircraft ready or something else delays a mission, it’s of little consequence to the training mission. For busy ranges such as Luke and Nellis Air Force Bases, slipping range time isn’t an option as it cuts into the subsequent users’ training time.

Initially, the visiting aircraft focused on their F-35 specific training with 10 sorties in the morning and eight more later in the day. The wing continued its training mission flying eight morning sorties and six afternoon sorties. The second week of training included integration with wing aircraft culminating in a large-force exercise involving 32 aircraft.

See TEST, Page 3



A U.S. Air Force F-35 Lightning II taxis toward the runway with six others prior to flying a mission at the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls, Oregon.



Visiting U.S. Air Force F-35 Lightning II aircraft sit beside 173rd Fighter Wing F-15 Eagles at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon. The 63rd Fighter Squadron from Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, brought 14 aircraft and flew nearly 500 hours over a 13-day period.

Thunderbolt

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<https://www.luke.af.mil> and social media



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Arizona Cardinals visit Luke

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

U.S. Air Force Maj. Aaron Johnson, 69th Fighter Squadron F-16 instructor pilot, and Dennis Gardeck, Arizona Cardinals offensive linebacker, take off in the F-16D Fighting Falcon dubbed "MiG Killer", Nov. 1, 2022, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Familiarization flights allow civilian and military personnel to learn about flight operations that they might not otherwise experience.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jorge Aparicio-Aguilar, 56th Component Maintenance Squadron weapons lead crew member, speaks with Trace McSorley, Arizona Cardinals quarterback, Nov. 1, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona.



U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Jason M. Rueschhoff, 56th Fighter Wing commander, greets Cameron Thomas and Jesse Luketa, Arizona Cardinals offensive linebackers, Nov. 1, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Military installations routinely host members of the community to educate them on various missions and capabilities.



Airmen of the 56th Fighter Wing pose for a photo with players, cheerleaders, and the mascot of the Arizona Cardinals Nov. 1, during a tour of Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The base tour was an opportunity to inform community partners on military operations and unique mission sets.



U.S. Air Force Maj. Aaron Johnson, 69th Fighter Squadron F-16 instructor pilot, and Dennis Gardeck, Arizona Cardinals offensive linebacker, walk to the flightline. Gardeck was selected for a familiarization flight to experience a day in the life of a pilot and to understand more about flight operations.

— See page 7 for additional photos

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ROYAL NORWEGIAN AIR FORCE REACHES 10,000 HOURS

Courtesy photos



Three Royal Norwegian Air Force F-35 Lightning II aircraft training at the 56th Fighter Wing fly in formation to commemorate the RNAF achieving 10,000 flying hours Nov. 16, 2022, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The RNAF is training with the 62nd Fighter Squadron and achieved this milestone seven years after their first flight at Luke AFB on Nov. 10, 2015. The continued partnership is due to the combined efforts of U.S. and Norwegian personnel.

Four Royal Norwegian Air Force F-35 Lightning II aircraft training at the 56th Fighter Wing fly in formation to commemorate the RNAF achieving 10,000 flying hours Nov. 16, 2022, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Personnel and aircraft from Norway have been training with the 62nd Fighter Squadron since 2015. The RNAF achieved this milestone seven years after their first flight, which took place on Nov. 10, 2015.

TEST (from Page 1)

“Large ‘vols’ [evolutions] back home, you’re looking at probably 12 airplanes,” said U.S. Air Force Capt. Shaun Lovett, the visiting project officer. “32 aircraft adds some inherent challenges, deconfliction being one, also maintaining a level of awareness when half of those being “blue” and the other half are trying to kill you—makes it quite fun.”

When asked to reflect on any surprises or anything unexpected, Schnell said, “honestly it’s been how smooth things have been, it’s sometimes unnerving,” he said with a chuckle. He went on to say that despite half the ramp space being closed for renovation and a total of 38 aircraft parked on the ramp.

“Some of the easiest flying I’ve done,” said Lovett.

Air National Guard Col. Micah Lambert, 173rd FW vice commander, says the two units are looking at future opportunities to repeat this type of training at Kingsley Field due to the success of this mission.



U.S. Air National Guard photos by Master Sgt. Jefferson Thompson

A visiting U.S. Air Force F-35 Lightning II stands ready on the 173rd Fighter Wing ramp waiting for the sun to climb a little higher before winging its way to nearby ranges for training.

B-1B LANCER OFF-STATION TRAINING



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

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, Nov. 4, 2022, 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.

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Luke Chapel cuts ribbon on kitchen renovations



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Jakob Hambright
Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Raymond Boyer, 56th Fighter Wing chaplain, and U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Aimee Roth, 56th FW religious affairs superintendent, cut the ribbon during the chapel kitchen ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 8, 2022, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The renovation also included the reorganization of the chapel building and its offices, which allows chapel staff to better serve Airmen and their families.



Community members and U.S. Air Force Airmen from the 56th Fighter Wing participate in the chapel kitchen ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 8 at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The ceremony celebrated the reopening of the Luke AFB chapel kitchen, which was remodeled to better serve Airmen and their families.



U.S. Air Force Col. Keagan McLeese, 56th Fighter Wing vice commander, speaks to 56th FW Airmen and community members during the chapel kitchen ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 8 at Luke Air Force Base.

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ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

participates in

SWIFT STRIKE



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

A Royal Canadian Air Force CF-18 Hornet aircraft from the 401 Tactical Fighter Squadron, CFB Cold Lake, Alberta, Canada, conducts off-station training as part of exercise Swift Strike Nov. 17, 2022, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona.



A Royal Canadian Air Force CF-18 Hornet aircraft from the 401 Tactical Fighter Squadron takes off as part of exercise Swift Strike Nov. 17, 2022, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Swift Strike is a bilateral exercise between the U.S. and Canadian controllers, focused on interoperability between the two countries.



Royal Canadian Air Force airmen from the 401 Tactical Fighter Squadron prepare CF-18 Hornet aircraft as part of exercise Swift Strike at Luke Air Force Base. The 401 TFS participated in the exercise alongside the 42 Radar Squadron, also from CFB Cold Lake, and the 607th Air Control Squadron from Luke.

Get your flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine before the holidays

By
JAY SHIFFLER

VA Center for Health Promotion, Disease Prevention

The holiday season is upon us, and one way to protect your loved ones as we gather together is to get your flu shot. When you get your flu shot, you reduce your risk of getting sick with flu. You will also help to reduce the spread of flu so that you and

your loved ones can enjoy a healthier holiday season together.

With holiday gatherings approaching, you can also do your part to best protect yourself and others from COVID-19. When you stay up to date with an updated bivalent COVID-19 booster dose, you will be protected against both the original virus that causes COVID-19 and its Omicron variants.

You can safely receive both the COVID-19 vaccine and the flu vaccine during the same visit to your provider.

Both the flu vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine are essential to protecting yourself during this holiday season. They not only increase your chances of staying healthy, but also have been shown to reduce the risk of hospitalization and death from illness.

In addition, these vaccines will help you

provide a safe environment for your loved ones who are more at risk, such as pregnant women, older adults and those with chronic diseases.

With the flu and COVID-19 vaccines, you can protect yourself, those you love, and those around you during this holiday season.

Learn more at prevention.va.gov/flu/FluShots.

ARIZONA CARDINALS VISIT LUKE

(from Page 2)



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

Cameron Thomas, Arizona Cardinals offensive linebacker, tests his cognitive recognition speed at the Tactical Integrated Training and Nutrition (TITAN) Arena Nov. 1, 2022, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The TITAN Arena is designed to strengthen specific cognitive and physical skills that pilots may need while flying fighter aircraft.



Members of the 56th Component Maintenance Squadron show Cameron Thomas, Arizona Cardinals offensive linebacker, how to attach an Air Intercept Missile 9X to an F-35 Lightning II Nov. 1, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Maintenance Airmen are responsible for ensuring all components of aircraft are operable and mission-ready.



U.S. Air Force Maj. Aaron Johnson, 69th Fighter Squadron F-16 instructor pilot, and Dennis Gardeck, Arizona Cardinals offensive linebacker, prepare for flight in an F-16D Fighting Falcon Nov. 1, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Familiarization flights allow civilian and military personnel to learn about flight operations that they might not otherwise experience.

Lunch and Learn

AFGE Local #1547 will host a Lunch and Learn for all Luke, NAF, Child Development Center, and DeCA civilian bargaining unit employees.

The meeting will run noon-5 p.m., Dec. 20 in the Union Office — on the first floor, east end of Bldg. 156 at 14035 W. Mitchell Street at Luke AFB.

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

A U.S. Air Force B-2 Spirit bomber assigned to the 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, flies over Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, on Nov. 15. Two bombers participated in a training exercise with multi-nation assets assigned to Luke AFB, meant to familiarize pilots with different airframe operations.



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

A U.S. Air Force B-2 Spirit bomber assigned to the 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri conducts off-station training Nov. 15, 2022, at Luke Air Force Base. 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.



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

B2 BO

By 1st Lt.
CHARIS BRYAN

56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — For the first time over the U.S., allied nation F-35 Lightning II aircraft operating out of the 56th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, supported off-station training with B-2 Spirit aircraft assigned to the 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman AFB, Missouri, Nov. 15 and 17.

Over the course of the two-day mission, a total of 20 F-35s from Italy, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, and the U.S. conducted offensive counter air training with five of the bomber aircraft in the Barry M. Goldwater Range, Arizona. The pilots of the stealth fighter jets are currently training with the 62nd Fighter Squadron, 63rd and 308th Fighter Squadrons at Luke AFB.

“These bomber integration missions prepare our pilots to be successful in the most demanding combat environments,” said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col Tyler Smith, 62nd FS commander. “After integrating with a variety of aircraft and capabilities here at Luke, our pilots are ready to quarterback the joint force when they reach their operational units.”

The training exercise aimed to familiarize the pilots with the different airframe’s operations and increase interoperability. While B-2 aircraft have integrated with Allied and partner aircraft during Bomber Task Force missions in Europe and the Pacific region, this

is the first time that Allied nation AFB have flown with the multi-rol

The pilots that participated in mission experienced working alongside and capabilities that they might not. Early exposure to operating with the better prepares the fighter pilots for integrations.

“Luke is training our Airmen, AL as realistically as possible,” said Col. Matthew Johnston, 56th O commander. “Our graduates are with their own tactics, techniques but those of other assets and Air operating with in the Combat Air Combat Air Forces.”

The exercise paired the enhanced awareness and stealth capabilities the low-observable characteristics ing on the combined readiness on

This is the third time that the 5 ported off-station training events for integrating with partner F-35 pilots. Nov. 4, 2022, U.S. Air Force and partner aircraft assigned to the 62nd FS Lancer aircraft from the 7th BW, D

The 56th FW is the largest fighter Air Force and produces approximately world’s F-35 pilots. The wing routinely partner nation personnel and aircraft



U.S. Air Force

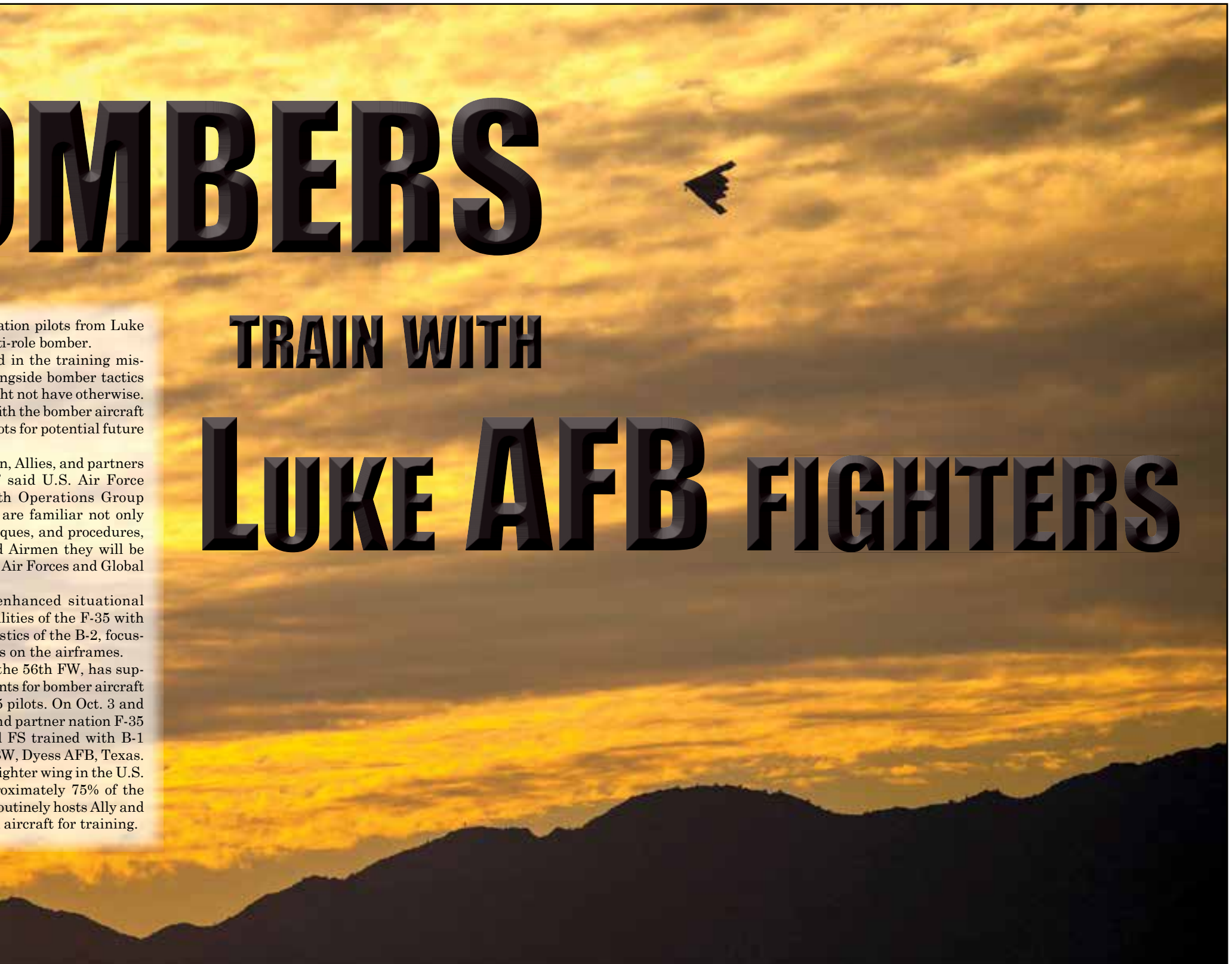
BOMBERS

TRAIN WITH LUKE AFB FIGHTERS

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

A U.S. Air Force B-2 Spirit bomber assigned to the 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, circles around Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The bombers participated in an off-station training exercise with multi-nation assets assigned to Luke AFB for the first time.



Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jakob Hambright



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

BOTTOM LEFT: The two B-2 Spirit bombers train with F-35 Lightning II. The exercise paired the enhanced situational awareness and stealth capabilities of the F-35 with the low-observable characteristics of the B-2, focusing on the combined readiness on the airframes.

BOTTOM MIDDLE: A B-2 Spirit bomber silhouetted against the sky over Luke Air Force Base.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The pilots who participated in the training mission experienced working alongside bomber tactics and capabilities that they might not have otherwise

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Jan. 20 • 10-11am • Free • Open to all DoD
Continued on page 3

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BAM KAZAM

Jan. 28 • 9am-3pm • Open to all • \$60 Limited to 12 participants

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Pontoon & fishing boats, canoes, kayaks & paddle boards, campers, camping & sporting equipment, lawn & garden items, tools, tables & chairs, party games, bouncers, dunk tank, serving items, and so much more. Daily, weekend, weekly and holiday pricing varies. Item/price lists available on-line at: 56fss.com/outdoor-recreation

Library

STORYTIME

Wednesdays • 9:30am • Ages 18 mos. - 4 yrs. Join Ms. Kathryn for songs, stories, and crafts!

Falcon Dunes

JUNIOR GOLF CLINIC

Jan. 8 • 10-11am • \$25 • Sign-up by Jan. 6 Participants learn grip, stance, driving, chipping, putting techniques, and etiquette.

FALCON DUNES CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

The entire Falcon Dunes facility will be closed Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

FALCON DUNES GRILL

Open daily from 7am-1:30pm. Catering services available, call Joe Crockett at 623-856-0004.

Be sure to join us on Dec. 21, for our special Christmas tea, there's no better way to celebrate the holiday season than with friends!

DECEMBER BOOK CLUB

Dec. 8 • 10:30am • Free Read or Listen to Any Book About Santa Claus, aka St. Nick, Kris Kringle, Father Christmas, etc.

JANUARY BOOK CLUB

Jan. 12 • 10:30am • Free Read or listen to the iconic classic, "Walden" by Henry David Thoreau.

BOOK TOK TEEN BOOK CLUB

Jan. 23 • 4:30pm Read or listen to "Ruby Red" Kerstin Gier. Snacks included. First four teens/preteens to register in person, receive a FREE copy of the book.



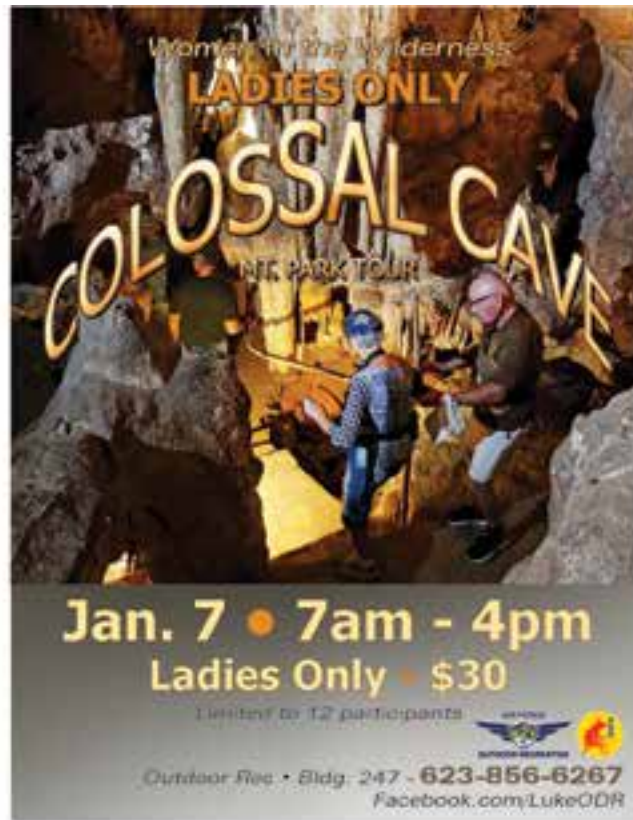
holiday jangler
tournament
Dec. 11 • 8am
Shotgun Start
Four-player Scramble Format

Includes
**Green Fees
Range Balls
Cart Rental & Prizes**

Register by Dec. 10

Club Members	Non-Members	Guests
\$58	\$63	\$68

Falcon Dunes Golf • Bldg. 2202 • 623-535-9334
Facebook.com/LukeGolfCourse



Women in the Wilderness
LADIES ONLY
COLOSSAL CAVE
NIK PARK TOUR

Jan. 7 • 7am - 4pm
Ladies Only • \$30

Limited to 12 participants

Outdoor Rec • Bldg. 247 • 623-856-6267
Facebook.com/LukeODR



SNOWBOWL SKI TRIP
Jan. 21 • 5am - 5pm
R4R Single Airmen and Deployed Family
Members Only - \$30

Includes transportation, lift ticket, and ski rental
Limited to 12 participants

Please dress appropriately
Tours are
snow & weather conditional

Outdoor Rec • Bldg. 247 • 623-856-6267
Facebook.com/LukeODR



Red Eye Open
Jan. 1 • 8:30am

Club Members	Nonmembers	Guests
\$61	\$66	\$71

Includes Green Fees • Range Balls • Cart Rental
Lunch & Prizes

Register by Dec. 29

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Facebook.com/LukeGolfCourse



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Let's Flamingo!
HOLIDAY PARTY
Dec. 12 • 6-7pm • Free
Deck the Palms with Balls of Holly!
Flamingo Bells, Fun Facts about Flamingos,
Scavenger Hunt, Refreshments, & more!

Library • Bldg. 210 • 623-856-7191
Facebook.com/LukeLibrary

Arts & Crafts

BEADED SNOWFLAKES CLASS

Dec. 3 • 10am - Noon • Sign-up by Dec. 1
\$35 includes all supplies • Ages 18 & older
Create beautiful holiday decor.

BEGINNING SEWING CLASS

Dec. 10 • 10am - Noon • Sign-up by Dec 8
\$35 includes all supplies • Ages 18 & older
Learn new or refresh your sewing skills.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS - The holidays are fast approaching, don't forget Arts & Crafts for unique and affordable holiday gifts. Choose from our wide-range of colorful, inexpensive, and useful insulated beverage items including: stemless insulated wine glasses, \$11.50; 20-oz. ring-neck tumblers, \$12; 30-oz. insulated cups with handles - \$19; and 64-oz. Growler mugs (black only) - \$30. Personalize your purchase with custom engraving, starting

G-Force Cafe



The G-Force Cafe is located on the third floor of the Block House, Bldg. 1150. The Cafe is open Mon. - Fri., serving breakfast from 7-9 a.m., and lunch from 11am - 1pm

at \$5 per name or image. In addition, Arts & Crafts offers a variety of wine boxes, gift-boxed - colored flasks and travel mugs, hand-crafted desktop coin holders, and much more.

Community Commons

continued from page 1

I.D. cardholders

Celebrate the Chinese New Year with a take-&-make Chinese dragon craft kit.

Bryant Fitness Center

RUNNING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Jan. 9 - Feb. 17 • Open to All • Free
Program meets Mon.-Wed.-Fri., 6am and Tues. & Thurs. 4pm - Fitness Center Track • Tues. & Thurs., 6am - Strength Class, Combat PT Center.

Register at: [Facebook.com/LukeFitnessCenter](https://www.facebook.com/LukeFitnessCenter)

MLK 5K FUN RUN

Jan. 20 • 7am • Fitness Ctr. Track • Open to All • Free

Trophies for the 1st - 3rd Place male and female competitors. Prize drawings and refreshments.

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SMOOTHIES, JUICE, & COFFEE BAR

Mon. - Fri. • 6am - 6pm

Smoothies, protein shakes, and coffee.

Youth Programs

KIDS NIGHT OUT

GLOW-IN-THE-DARK PARTY

Jan. 13 • 5:30-9:30pm • Ages 5(K)-12 and 13-18 • YP members - \$20 • Nonmembers - \$25
Register by Jan. 11

We'll glow-in-the-dark celebrating the New

ITT

MOVIE THEATER TICKETS

Harkins VIP Gold - \$9 • Popcorn Voucher - \$6
AMC Movie Theaters: Yellow - \$9.50 • Black - \$11.50

ARIZONA CARDINALS TICKETS

Pricing varies depending on seating locations

ZOO LIGHTS TICKETS

Select night beginning the end of Nov. through Jan. 2023 • 5:30-10:30pm • Phoenix Zoo • Adult and children's pricing varies

PHOENIX SUNS TICKETS

Select Games and Dates Available • Pricing varies depending on seating locations

KNOTT'S BERRY FARM MILITARY TRIBUTE

Select dates, Mon. - Thurs., in Nov. & Dec.

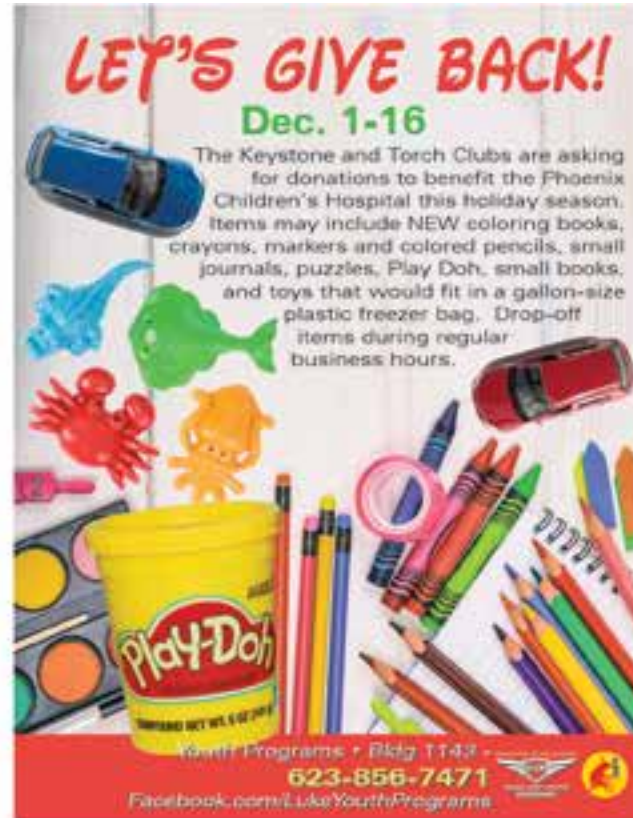
KNOTT'S MERRY FARM

Nov. 18 - Jan. 8. • Adult and children's pricing varies

HOLIDAYS at DISNEYLAND RESORT

Nov. 11 - Jan. 8 • 1-Day Park Hopper start at \$165

Year, while we enjoy a variety of activities including, arts & crafts, computers, movies, video games, and snacks. Athletic shoes must be worn in the gym.



56th Force Support Squadron

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

(Area Code 623)

Arts and Crafts Center	856-6502
Auto Hobby Shop	856-6107
Bryant Fitness Center	856-6241
Bryant Fitness Center Annex	856-8299
Child Development Center	856-6338
Club Five Six	856-6446
Community Commons	856-7152
Falcon Dunes Golf Course	535-9334
Falcon Dunes Grill	856-0004
Family Child Care	856-2684
Fighter Country Inn (Lodging)	856-3941
Fort Tuthill	928-774-8893
G-Force Cafe	856-6446
Hensman Dining Facility	856-6396
Information, Tickets and Travel	856-6000
Library	856-7191
Marketing	856-3245
Military & Family Readiness	856-6550
NAF Human Resources	856-7755
Outdoor Recreation	856-6267
Saguaro Skies FamCamp	856-4891
School Age Programs	856-7471
Silver Wings Pool	602-739-4826
T-Bolt Cafe	856-6420
Wood Hobby Shop	856-6566
Youth Programs	856-7470
Unite Program	856-2472

Youth Programs

KIDS DAY OUT

LASER TAG

Dec. 10 • 11am - 3pm
Ages 5(K)-12 & 13-18 yrs. old
YP members - \$20 • Nonmembers - \$25

Arts & crafts, computers, movies, and video games
Athletic shoes must be worn in the gym
Sign-up by Dec. 7

Youth Programs • Bldg 1143 - 623-856-7470
Facebook.com/LukeYouthPrograms

WINTER

Dec. 27-29 and Jan. 3-6

BREAK

Camps

Sign-up Nov. 21 - Dec. 22 for Both Camps

School Age Care

- 6 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Ages 5(K)-12
- Cost is based on total family income

Breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack included. Activities include arts & crafts, computers, movies outdoor play, fitness fun, and much more. Register at: militarychildcare.com

Youth Programs

- 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Ages 9-18
- Week 1 - \$45
- Week 2 - \$60

Activities include arts & crafts, computers, movies, video games, fitness fun, outdoor play and much more. Sign-up at Youth Programs.

Youth Programs • Bldg 1143 - 623-856-7470
Facebook.com/LukeYouthPrograms

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Luke Airmen host military retirees during Retiree Appreciation Day

Story and photos by Master Sgt.
OLUFEMI A. OWOLABI

56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — Airmen from various support agencies at the 56th Fighter Wing joined civilian counterparts to honor retired military members from all service branches during a Retiree Appreciation Day event at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, Nov. 19.

More than 100 retirees and their spouses attended the event, where they received key information about services available at Luke AFB and its community.

“This event is important because it allows us to get everybody here so that we can tell them about the benefits available around Luke AFB,” said U.S. Air Force 2nd Lt Joseph Moore, 56th Contracting Squadron contract specialist and officer in charge of Retiree Appreciation Day. “It also allows us to help them further build a community around base comprising of retirees and people that have served our nation.”

David Brodsky, a retired U.S. Air force technical sergeant who recently moved to Arizona in 2021, said this is his first event at Luke AFB since his retirement more than three decades ago from security forces at Travis AFB, California.

“We came to this event because we wanted to see what’s available,” said Brodsky, who attended the event with his



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Ashley Steingruber, 56th Medical Group noncommissioned officer in charge of allergy and immunization, prepares to administer a vaccine shot to Ida McDonald, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel, during a Retiree Appreciation Day event at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, Nov. 19, 2022. The event provided an opportunity for retirees to receive key information about services available at Luke AFB and its community, and take advantage of flu vaccinations. McDonald served for 30 years and retired in December 2017 as chief nurse at Luke AFB.



U.S. Air Force Retirees 3 Senior Airman Alexis Schmitt, 56th Medical Group dental assistant, speaks with David Brodsky, an Air Force veteran, and his spouse Rosario Brodsky, during a Retiree Appreciation Day event at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, Nov. 19.

wife Rosario. “We wanted to talk to and meet other retirees. I was stationed here from 1980 to 1984. At that time, we were not allowed to enter this building (the Block House), so we are very excited to go in and see what’s inside.”

During the event, retirees visited various information booths such as the fire department, dental clinic, and

United Service Organizations, and they took advantage of flu shots and various vaccines provided by the 56th Medical Group team.

They also had a chance to get new ID cards, reset their MyPay pin if needed, meet with the finance office members and the legal services team as needed.



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Emmanuel Willis and U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Domitrius Johnson, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters, speak with military retirees and veterans during a Retiree Appreciation Day event at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, Nov. 19, 2022.



Military retirees and veterans walk through a line of organizations and base agency displays to receive informational pamphlets during a Retiree Appreciation Day event at Luke Air Force Base.



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- Utility Technician
- Fabrication Supervisor
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For more information, please contact our Provider Recruitment team at: altura.org/provider-recruitment/

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Luke celebrates Thanksgiving

U.S. Air Force photos by Airman Mason Hargrove

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Jason Rueschhoff, 56th Fighter Wing commander, serves turkey to Airmen, Nov. 23, 2022, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The Ray V. Hensman Dining Facility gave an opportunity for Airmen, retirees, dependents, and leadership to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal before the holiday.



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Donald Winchester, 56th Mission Support Group senior enlisted leader, serves food to Airmen Nov. 23.



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Jason Shaffer, 56th Fighter Wing command chief, serves turkey at the Ray V. Hensman Dining Facility, Nov. 23, 2022.



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Jason Shaffer, 56th Fighter Wing command chief, carves a turkey during the Nov. 23, 2022, Thanksgiving dinner at Luke Air Force Base's Ray V. Hensman Dining Facility.



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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