

U.S. Air Force

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE : ARIZONA

Established in 1941, Luke Air Force Base's namesake is World War I pilot and Phoenix native, 2nd Lt. Frank Luke Jr. He bears the distinction of being the first aviator to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. In eight days of flying, Lieutenant Luke scored 18 victories (14 German air balloons and 4 airplanes).

Luke AFB is home to the 56th Fighter Wing, which is the largest fighter wing in the world. It is the only active-duty Air Force F-16



training wing and formally added the F-35 training mission in May 2015. Since 1941, Luke AFB has graduated more than 57,650 pilots. As of June 2015, the wing has

113 aircraft, 23 operations and support squadrons, and hosts the 944th Fighter Wing, Navy Operational Support Center Phoenix and Marine Corps Reserves' Bulk Fuel Company C. It's also home to approximately 5,150 military and civilian Airmen. Overall, Luke AFB provides services to over 130,000 current and retired service members and their families.

According to a Maguire Company study, Luke AFB contributes about \$2.17 billion annually to Arizona's economy.

FAST FACTS

- » Location: **Glendale, AZ (Maricopa County)**
- » Land Area: **4,833 acres**
- » Special Use Airspace: **10,481 square nautical miles**
- » Military Personnel: **4,001**
- » Civilian Personnel: **1,151**



Above: The Spad XIII is the oldest aircraft to be displayed at the Luke AFB Air Park. The French-built Spad XIII equipped 16 squadrons in World War I, including Lieutenant Luke's 27th Aero Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo, Senior Airman Darlene Seltmann)

Left: Brig. Gen. Scott Pleus, 56th Fighter Wing commander, lands the wing's flagship F-35 at Luke after ferrying it from Lockheed Martin's Fort Worth, Texas, plant April 28, 2015. The arrival marked that jet's first flight as a U.S. Air Force aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo, Senior Airman Devante Williams)

MISSION STATEMENT

Train the world's greatest F-35 and F-16 fighter pilots.

CONTACT

Public Affairs Office
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UNIT MISSIONS

- » **56th Fighter Wing:** Train the world's greatest F-35 and F-16 fighter pilots. Part of Air Education and Training Command, the wing operates 162 aircraft and is home to 23 squadrons at Luke AFB, of which two are F-35 squadrons and four are F-16 squadrons. The wing also commands the geographically separated 54th Fighter Group at Holloman AFB, New Mexico with five squadrons, including two F-16 squadrons. The 56 FW graduates more than 400 F-16 pilots and 300 crew chiefs annually, and will begin training new F-35 student pilots in 2016.
- » **56th Operations Group:** Train and produce the world's finest F-35 and F-16 pilots and crew chiefs for the United States and allied forces. It includes nine squadrons, of which two fly F-35s, two fly U.S. F-16s and two fly Foreign Military Sales F-16 aircraft.
- » **56th Maintenance Group:** Provide safe, reliable aircraft, equipment, and munitions to train the world's greatest F-35 and F-16 pilots and crew chiefs. Includes the four squadrons providing maintenance and training for F-35 and F-16 flight operations and maintenance professionals.
- » **56th Mission Support Group:** Provide expert combat support, while building a premier base community. Includes the wing's follow squadrons: Communications Squadron, Security Forces Squadron, Logistic Readiness Squadron, Civil Engineer Squadron, Contracting Squadron, and Force Support Squadron.
- » **56th Medical Group:** Ensure mission ready forces, promote safety and wellness, and provide great health care. Includes the following 56th FW squadrons: Medical Operations Squadron, Medical Support Squadron, Dental Squadron, and Aerospace Medicine Squadron.
- » **944th Fighter Wing:** Train and provide Combat-Ready Citizen Airmen in support of national objectives.
- » **607th Air Control Squadron:** Conduct formal initial qualification training for crew personnel of the Air Control Squadron in command and control tactics, techniques, and procedures. Provide an understanding of how to execute operations in large geographic areas.
- » **Air Combat Command Training Support Squadron, Detachment 1:** Design, build, and maintain top quality aircrew trainers and technology-based training products for the Commemorative Air Force. Detachment 1 is the largest Air Combat Command detachment, and it is the only fabrication training organization owned by the government.
- » **54th Fighter Group, Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico:** The 54th FG is geographically assigned to Holloman AFB, but is commanded by Luke AFB's 56th Fighter Wing. The group hosts five squadrons, of which two are F-16 squadrons training newly assigned student pilots to be combat-ready F-16 fighter pilots.



Above: Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Airpark was dedicated at Luke AFB on August 7, 2006. The airpark features an F-16 Fighting Falcon static aircraft. In recognition of the "Red Tail" warriors of the Tuskegee Airmen, the aircraft wears World War II Tuskegee colors. (U.S. Air Force photo, Senior Airman Christopher Hummel)

COMMANDER RANK

Brigadier General

MILITARY TRAINING RANGE

- » Stewards of the 1.05 million acre Barry M. Goldwater Range-East complex

UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

- » Established in 1941
- » Named after WWI Medal of Honor recipient 2nd Lt. Frank Luke, Jr.
- » Home to 56th Fighter Wing, which is the largest fighter wing in the world and the only active-duty Air Force F-16 training wing
- » Began the F-35 training mission in May 2015
- » Major training base for the Air Education and Training Command (AETC)
- » Home to the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Park

For more information, please see < <http://www.luke.af.mil> >