



# Range Reader

## Barry M. Goldwater Range East 56th Range Management Office

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Welcome to the fall edition of *Range Reader* - a newsletter to keep you informed of the Barry M. Goldwater Range East happenings. Whether you utilize the Range for recreation or are a member of the local community and enjoy staying informed this newsletter is for you!

This newsletter is in electronic format as well and can be found on our website. Thank you for your interest in the Barry M. Goldwater Range!

## Daughter Travels Halfway Around the World to Visit Father's Memorial on BMGR

Since its activation during World War II, Luke Air Force Base has been the center of training pilots from all over the world. International partnerships have always been an instrumental part of the success in being able to fulfill the mission of "training the world's greatest fighter pilots".



After a lifetime of waiting, Sabine Hell got the opportunity to pay respects to her late father at his memorial located on the Barry M. Goldwater Range in Arizona.

Sabine, both an American and German citizen who currently resides in France, made a trip to the United States, and being able to visit her father's memorial was at the top of her to-do list.



Her father, Maj Peter Hell, a German instructor pilot, was stationed at Luke AFB for three and a half years assigned to the 418th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron.

During his time at Luke, he logged more than 1,500 hours in the Lockheed F-104 Starfighter as an instructor pilot.

During his time in the German Air Force, he logged nearly 3,000 flying hours. From the 1960s through the 1980s Luke AFB trained pilots from allied nations, *(continued on page 2)*

## In the News

While most people realize a huge part of the Range is used for operations some are uncertain what that really looks like. While the Range is used daily for flying to help our pilots meet sortie and mission requirements, the Barry M Goldwater Range East and Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field are also used for a variety of exercises. Its year-round flying weather and natural open terrain continue to make it a perfect location for both air and ground training. Check out these recent articles below regarding happenings on the Range and GBFAF.

### ***Daughter Travels Halfway Around the World to Visit Father's Memorial on BMGR (Continued)***



one of which being the Federal Republic of Germany.

The F-104 program at Luke was more than just an advanced pilot training program. Its participants fostered international good will through their charitable work. Hell was well known for this involvement in the community and U.S. Air Force Academy – German Student pilot charity soccer matches. During his time at Luke AFB, he was also named the team's "Most Valuable Player".

Hell lost his life in a training accident on the BMGR on May 8, 1970. Sabine, having been born in 1969, was an infant when this unfortunate accident took place.

Sabine had the opportunity to visit his memorial on the Range and also saw a static display of the F-104 Starfighter, the aircraft her father flew while assigned to Luke AFB.

Sabine placed a carved wooden heart on her father's memorial. "I just wanted to leave a little something to show him I love him," she said. "Although he wasn't physically able to be there, I always felt he was watching over me."

### ***Luke AFB Hosts Honorary Commanders at Gila Bend Overnight***

The 56th Fighter Wing hosted more than 50 honorary commanders for an immersive overnight experience, Oct. 26, 2023, at Barry M. Goldwater Range, Arizona.

The event served as an immersive experience for the 56th Fighter Wings honorary commanders, offering them a glimpse into the precision and capabilities of air and ground assets that utilize the Barry M. Goldwater range.

HCCs observed strafing and bombing runs by F-35 Lightning IIs assigned to the 56th Fighter Wing, F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned to the 21st Fighter Squadron, HH-60W Jolly Green IIs from the 55th Rescue Squadron and A-10 Thunderbolt IIs assigned to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base ...

Full article: <https://www.luke.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3574408/luke-afb-hosts-honorary-commanders-at-gila-bend-overnight/>



### ***IP War Day/Desert Hammer/Honorary Commanders Overnight***

In a total force effort, the 56th Fighter Wing conducted Instructor Pilot War Day in conjunction with a larger joint-force exercise hosted by the 944th Fighter Wing, Exercise Desert Hammer, Nov. 3-4, 2023, over the Barry M. Goldwater Range, Arizona.



Exercise Desert Hammer combined with IP War Day, involved more than 300 combat support Airmen and 96 aircraft, this joint-force exercise is a routine event with U.S. Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Navy.

The exercise's primary intent was to maintain and enhance tactical proficiency, particularly focusing on air-to-air defensive maneuvers in a variety of combat scenarios and contested areas. It aimed to bolster coordination and readiness among the various units, ensuring that

aircrews are adept and prepared for the agile deployment of airpower in future operations ...



Full article: <https://www.luke.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3583084/luke-afb-advances-joint-force-training-in-ip-war-day/>  
Video production: <https://www.944fw.afrc.af.mil/News/Video/videoid/906165/dvpcc/false/#DVIDSVideoPlayer23447>

# Range Management Office Hosts Ceramics Workshop

The 56th Range Management Office hosted a Lower Colorado Buff Ware Workshop at the Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field and the Barry M. Goldwater Range October 20-21, 2023.

The Lower Colorado Buff Ware Workshop is a casual gathering of researchers who meet with the primary goal of advancing research on Patayan ceramics. Participants have included professionals from Tribes, cultural resource management firms, nonprofits, museums, federal agencies, and avocational archaeologists from Arizona, California, and Nevada. The workshop meets twice a year to discuss the latest developments, findings, and concerns regarding Indigenous ceramic technologies of the Sonoran Desert.

In addition to their meeting at GBAFAF the group also a guided tour of Lago Seco, an archeological site on the BMGR, to examine the landscape and gain a better understanding of the type of ceramics on Range.



# Annual Intertribal Meeting



On November 15-16, 2023, the 56th Range Management Office, Environmental Services Management Cultural Resource Group sponsored its annual intertribal meeting. Day one consisted of a face-to-face meeting at the Siedav Va'aki (formerly Pueblo Grande) Museum, and day two consisted of a field trip to the area around Eagle Tank on the Barry M. Goldwater Range East.

The 56 RMO ESMC consults regularly with 18 Native American tribes and two non-federally recognized tribal groups on all projects that have the potential to affect historic and prehistoric sites and other locations of importance to the tribes. Tribes consider cultural and natural resources to be essentially the same, so 56 RMO Natural Resource staff also participated in the meeting. The annual meeting is an opportunity for tribes and Air Force staff to give presentations, ask questions, share concerns, discuss current projects, get to know each other and break bread together. Sharing a meal is a critical component to relationship building with tribes.

The field trip was an opportunity to visit an archaeological site on the Range and listen to diverse perspectives regarding the significance and importance of the site.

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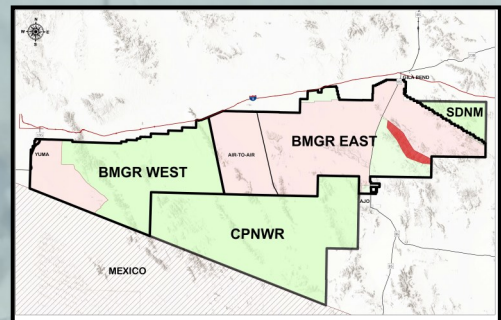
# Information About Hunting on the Barry M. Goldwater Range

## *Did you know hunting is allowed on the recreation parts of the Barry M. Goldwater Range?*

In order to gain access you must create an account on RecAccess and have a current permit for the BMGR and other former military lands. Arizona Game and Fish Department rules must be followed at all times along with the specific rules of the land managers.

**Please note some areas within game management units 40A and 40B are used for military training and are NOT accessible and open for hunting.** During November through December special access is given to the BMGR East Air-to-Air segment of the Range to Bighorn sheep hunters with tags for 40B, 46A, and 46B. Otherwise, this area is NOT open to the public. No other hunting or scouting is allowed in this area.

Contact [56RMO.Public.Affairs@us.af.mil](mailto:56RMO.Public.Affairs@us.af.mil) for more information about Bighorn Sheep hunting access.

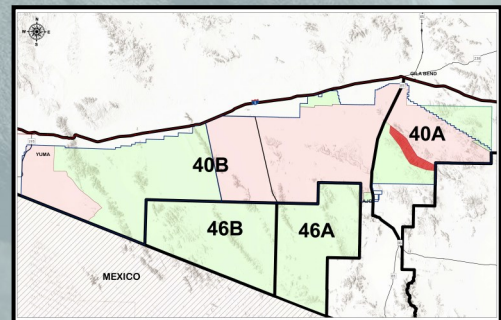


### Land Managers:

**40B**—BMGR West (west of Mohawk Mountains) Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and BMGR East (east of Mohawk Mountains) Luke Air Force Base

**40A**—BMGR East, Luke Air Force Base and Sonoran Desert National Monument, Bureau of Land Management

**46A & 46B**—Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



## Ongoing Conservation Efforts

### Range 3 Tower Nest

A nest was recently discovered on one of our Range control towers and the 56th Range Management Office Biologists immediately went into action.

They went out early in the morning to the Barry M. Goldwater Range to evaluate and set up a camera so they could go back to check to see if the nest was currently occupied.

Due to the proximity of the nest, near a highly used training location, concerns arise about potential safety and strike hazards. The mission of the Range Management Office is to ensure pilots have a safe place to train while also ensuring the natural and cultural aspects of the Range are protected.



After observing the nest they were able to confirm it was no longer in use, and it was safely removed.

### Spreading Awareness Through Outreach



The 56th Range Management Office was out for the Luke Air Force Base JROTC Career Expo Day. Units from all over the base set up booths to talk about their jobs in the military.

The RMO members in attendance talked about the Barry M. Goldwater Range and both the operations and environmental parts of their respective positions.

### Bighorn Sheep Surveying

This past October 56th Range Management Office Wildlife Biologists went out with our Arizona Game and Fish Department partners and conducted their annual Bighorn sheep surveys. This year they surveyed various mountain ranges on the Barry M. Goldwater Range East via helicopter. Saucedo, Sand Tanks, Growler, and Granite are a few of the mountain ranges that are surveyed for sheep.



Bighorn sheep surveys are conducted annually but certain regions are focused on every three years. These surveys are done every three years to determine the distribution and population estimates to best manage the sheep populations in Arizona. The surveys give a better idea of the health of the population, classify rams, and help Arizona Game and Fish Department determine numbers for the hunting season.



## Useful Phone Numbers

**56 RMO Public Affairs**  
623-856-7216

**BMGR East Range Security**  
623-856-5421 or 623-683-5200

**BMGR West**  
928-269-3115

**Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge**  
520-387-6483

**Sonoran Desert National Monument**  
602-867-5400

**AZ Game & Fish Department**  
602-942-3000

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
602-242-0210

**U.S. Customs & Border Protection**  
877-227-5511

## Communications

We have been working hard to improve our methods of communication with our partners and the community.

One of those ways is through this very newsletter. We hope you find it useful as we plan to do one quarterly and include updates and items of interest along with things we have been up to throughout the quarter. This newsletter will be distributed at our public meetings and can be downloaded from our website.

Another way is through our website. It's still in the works but it has more information and should be easier to navigate for those looking for documents or information.

And also through our official Facebook page. We've been posting about recent happenings and items we feel could benefit our followers.

If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can help get information out, let us know by reaching out to [56R-MO.Public.Affairs@us.af.mil](mailto:56R-MO.Public.Affairs@us.af.mil).

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<https://www.luke.af.mil/Units/56th-Range-Management-Office/>

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