



LUKE AIR FORCE BASE

GLENDAL, ARIZONA

RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 3 | AUG-OCT 2025



— ★ ★ ★ —

SAVE THE DATE

MILITARY RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY

SATURDAY 18 OCT 25 0800 - 1200

— ★ ★ ★ —

THE NAVY RESERVE CENTER
BLDG. 300
14160 MARAUDER ST.

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE
AZ 85309

WE WELCOME MILITARY RETIREES FROM ALL SERVICES AND THEIR SPOUSES!

The 56th Fighter Wing will honor the service of Phoenix area military retirees with the **2025 Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD)** while also providing a look into the mission at Luke AFB: To train the world's greatest fighter pilots and combat-ready Airmen. Available:

- NEXTGEN ID card renewal
- Base Services
- Legal / Personnel
- Finance
- TRICARE
- Immunizations (as avail)

Information providers on site will include VA and Veteran Service Organizations such as VFW, DAV, AMVETS, MOAA, Assoc of USN, and Fleet Reserve Assoc.

IMPORTANT * * * Access to Luke AFB: Visitors (those without DoD IDs) require a pass. All visitors (age 16 or older) are required to be screened and issued appropriate DBIDS (Defense Biometric Identification System) / visitor's passes by security forces prior to gaining access to the installation. For info: <https://www.luke.af.mil/>



RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE (RAO) AT LUKE AFB: We, the volunteer staff of Luke AFB RAO, connect retirees of all military and uniformed services, and their surviving spouses / family members / next of kin, with information and assistance on matters pertaining to their benefits and entitlements. Our goal is to provide guidance and referral assistance on military and uniformed service retiree matters.



WHAT CAN YOU E-CYCLE?





**ELECTRONIC
RECYCLING**

LUKE AFB, ARIZONA

What Can you E-Cycle?

South of Bldg. 302

CONSUMER PROPERTY ONLY!

<p>COMPUTER EQUIPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PC Computers ** Laptops & Notebooks ** CRT Monitors Flat Screen Monitors Keyboards & Mice Printers & Copiers Toner & Ink Cartridges Fax Machines Peripherals & Gadgets Power Supplies & Chargers UPS Systems (w/o Batteries) Cables & Wires Networking Equipment Servers & Racks Circuit Boards Tape Libraries CD and DVD Drives Copiers 	<p>TELECOMUNICATION EQUIPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telephones Cell Phones Switches CSU/DSU Multiplexing Equipment Phone Systems
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NOTE: NO BATTERIES ACCEPTED!!

AUDIO/VISUAL EQUIPMENT

- Stereos
- Radios
- Amplifiers
- Projectors
- Televisions

**** 100% Recycled!** All PC's and Laptops with hard drives will be wiped clean and certified by NIST Standards.

A certificate of recycling will be e-mailed upon final disposition by Electronic Recycling Services. Customer to request certificate prior to sending, by Appointment, Call 623-856-4748, or -4749.



Electronic Recycling Services
Data Destruction • Electronic Recycling
ersrecycle.com
DanV@ersrecycle.com

CLUB 56 EVENTS

Air Force Birthday Celebration

Thursday, Sep 18, 2025
3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Enjoy Birthday cake, Patriotic music, & trivia. Sing a patriotic song & compete to win a prize.



Monster Mash

Friday, October 24, 2025 6 PM – 8 PM

Costume contest, dancing, & fun. For info:
<https://www.facebook.com/ClubFiveSix/>

August 1 – Fighter Wing 1st Friday

August 27 – All Day Wing Fest

Sept 5 – Fighter Wing 1st Friday

Sept 18 – Air Force Birthday Celebration

Sept 24 – All Day Wing Fest

October 3 – Fighter Wing 1st Friday

October 24 – Halloween Monster Mash Up

October 29 – All Day Wing Fest

SELF-SERVE ID CARD KIOSK



2025–LUKE AFB RAO MEETINGS

Join us & find out more about volunteering.

3rd Weds of each month, 11 AM

Club Five Six, 14000 W Eagle St, Luke AFB

Aug 20, 2025 meeting

Sep 17, 2025 meeting

Oct 15, 2025 meeting

Oct 18, 2025 – Retiree Appreciation Day

Nov 19, 2025 meeting

**Dec 17, 2025 – RAO Christmas Party, Falcon
Dunes Golf Club**



FAREWELL & THANK YOU

COLONEL MATT JOHNSTON

CMSgt JASON Q. SHAFFER

RAO VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



In 1959, then-
USAF Captain
Paul
Ruehrmund
joined the elite
development
team of the
**SAGE (Semi-
Automatic**

Ground Environment) computer system at
MIT's Lincoln Laboratory in Boston.

Unveiled in 1956, the SAGE, AN/FSQ-7, built by IBM, Western Electric and Rand Corp., weighed 250 tons and occupied an acre of floor space, the largest computer of its time. SAGE supplied state-of-the-art air defense coverage across North America for incoming threats. According to IBM, SAGE "provided military commanders the ability to automatically calculate the most effective use of missiles and aircraft to fend off attack." It operated for 25 years until 1982.



From the 1960s to 1984, the Block House at Luke AFB housed a SAGE system under the command of the 26th North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) / 26th Air Defense Command (ADC).

Paul explained that SAGE was fielded by region. "Each region had duplicate computers, one active and one on standby, which ran with 20,000 vacuum tubes each, at least 60,000 tubes at each region."

"The Luke AFB SAGE center was unique," Paul said, "because it was a programming center for all the other regions and possessed more core memory... 32K total!"

SAGE in the Movies: With its panels of blinking lights, radar scopes, and switches, the SAGE computer starred in many movies as a prop, including *Planet of the Apes* (1973), *The Towering Inferno* (1974), *Spaceballs* (1987), *Independence Day* (1996) & *Lost* (2004-09).

Paul grew up on a farm in Marion, OH, where his father Edgar farmed wheat and corn, and bred dairy cows. Stella, his mother, raised 6 children. After graduating from ROTC at Capital University in Columbus, OH, Paul accepted his commission into the USAF. During his career, he worked as a weapons controller, in surveillance, and in electronic counter-countermeasures. His first assignment was to manual radar site on the Island of Sadoshima.

Vietnam Veteran; In 1969, Paul deployed to Tan Son Nhat AFB, Saigon, Vietnam, where he worked in plans and requirements. Later assignments included Little Rock AFB, where he handled maintenance on the Titan II missile program, Hancock Field, Syracuse, NY, with 21st NORAD, and North Bay, Ontario, with 22nd NORAD. In the late 1970s, Paul's final assignment involved planning and scheduling in the Block House at Luke AFB—the same time the SAGE computer occupied the Block House.

After 21 years, Paul retired from the Air Force and then worked as a Health Dept administrator with Maricopa County Health Dept. Paul and his bride, Margaret (RIP 2020)



raised 4 children. Paul has 11 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren with #14 on the way. In May 2024, Paul joined Luke AFB RAO as a volunteer in 2021 and is a stalwart member of the Thursday AM shift. In 2024, Paul took the Arizona Honor Flight to DC. Thank you Paul for volunteering at RAO!

DON'T WAIT - GET YOUR NEXTGEN ID CARD TODAY

Starting in 2026, Legacy Uniform Services Identification cards (USID)—the blue ID card (DD Form 2 retiree)—will NO LONGER be accepted for access to benefits, privileges or DOD bases.



As a veteran, military retiree, spouse or dependent of a service member, you may be eligible for a Next Generation Uniformed Services ID card (USID). This military ID proves your identity to the DOD and gives you access to military services and programs. For details:

<https://www.cac.mil/Next-Generation-Uniformed-Services-ID-Card/>

AIR FORCE AID SOCIETY

by Christy Casper, Military & Family Readiness



The **Air Force Aid Society** began helping the families of American Airmen when General Hap Arnold, along with his wife Bee, established a trust fund to support the children of deceased Airmen during World War II. That mission has evolved over the last 80 years, but the Society's intention remains constant. According to AFAS.org, "Today, the Air Force Aid Society's purpose is to help

Airmen, Guardians, and their families when they need us most. As the official charity of the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force, AFAS provides financial assistance, educational support, community programs, and disaster relief to Air Force and Space Force families worldwide."

Financial Assistance: AFAS offers Financial Assistance when unexpected financial needs and emergencies arise. This assistance is most often given in the form of an interest-free loan to help the Service Member, Retiree, or Widows to cover unmet immediate needs.

Food Assistance: Widows will be eligible for food assistance one time following the retiree's death, with further assistance considered on a case-by-case basis; similarly, retirees may be eligible for food assistance one time after retirement and additional applications will be considered. Some assist with funeral expenses for a retiree or spouse may be considered in unique situations.

Education Support: Education Support for dependent children or surviving spouses of active and retired Airmen and Guardians is provided through grants, loans, and scholarships. The General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant application is the starting point for the Arnold Grant, the AFAS Merit and Grit Scholarships, and the AFAS Supplemental Education Loan Program.

For more info: <https://afas.org/>

Or please call Luke Military & Family Readiness Center at (623) 856-6550.

MILITARY SERVICES RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS

Army Emergency Relief

<https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/>

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

<https://www.nmcra.org/>

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance

<https://mycgma.org/>

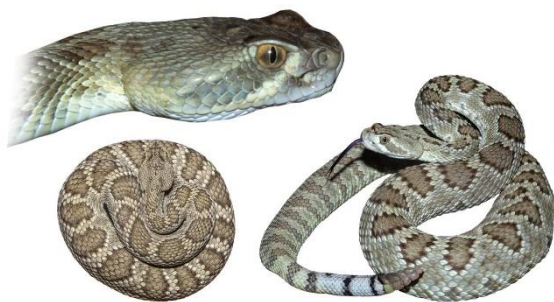
HEALTHY LIVING: WATCH OUT FOR THESE CRITTERS IN THE DESERT

by Ida McDonald, Col. (ret.) USAF & volunteer Luke AFB RAO

Continued from Apr-May-June RAO newsletter...

Arizona hosts part of all four of the major deserts in the United States: The Sonoran, Mojave, Chihuahuan, and Great Basin. These deserts hold challenges and dangers, to include venomous snakes and black widow spiders.

Snakes: Of the 36 rattlesnake species found throughout the United States, 13 of them live in Arizona. They are often spotted around Camelback Mountain, South Mountain, desert areas, and other similar regions in the Valley. Without the highly effective antivenom, **Mojave rattlesnakes** could easily top the list of the most dangerous animals in Arizona, as well as Mexico, Utah, and Nevada. Green to olive green scales with a brown or tan diamond pattern that runs down its back, is how the Nevada Department of Wildlife describes Mojave rattlesnakes. They are considered one of the more aggressive rattlesnakes, as they are highly defensive if they feel threatened. If you hear the classic buzzing sound of a rattlesnake, back away!



Rx: A bite can include pain, swelling, bruising, and bleeding. Their venom can also make the blood in the circulatory system harder to clot. If bitten do not tie a tourniquet, do not apply ice and do not attempt to suck the

venom; go directly to the emergency department regardless of your age, gender and level of health. Although the anti-venom is highly effective, you need to stay a night or two in the hospital because the venom can damage the tissue in the area of the bite. Wearing boots, long pants, and using a flashlight at night is key to being prepared. Also avoid placing hands and feet in hidden areas.

Black Widow Spider: Considered the most venomous spider in North America, the **Black Widow Spider** (especially the female) is one you hope doesn't crawl your way. Beware since these spiders are sometimes found in dark corners of homes and in basements. Even though the Black Widow Spider's venom is thought to be 15 times stronger than rattlesnake venom, their bites are usually not fatal.

Rx: If bitten, cleanse the wound with soap and water, apply ice, elevate the area and



take over-the-counter medication to ease pain. If symptoms worsen, visit the ER. Elderly people, those with compromised immune systems and young children are most susceptible to severe symptoms such as nausea, weakness, fever, difficulty breathing and elevated blood pressure. In these cases, patients should seek medical attention immediately. Even so, keep an eye out for spiders with a red or yellow hourglass mark on their bellies, often hanging out in dark crevices and secluded corners of the house or basement.

Enjoy the breathtaking beauty of Arizona, but stay on the lookout for those creatures who may not be as friendly as we are; whether it runs, slithers, hops, crawls or flies!

Buddy Plan: Don't forget to carry a charged phone, a first aid kit and use the buddy system. Everyone likes alone time while they're enjoying nature, but taking a buddy along can save your life.

OUTDOOR RECREATION (BLDG 247)

7383 N 140th St.

Hours: Mon-Fri 9 AM – 5 PM

Sat 8 AM – noon, Sun Closed

(623) 856-6267 /

<https://www.facebook.com/lukeodr/>

Outdoor Recreation offers adventures, day trips & vacations, equipment for rent, and aquatic programs to keep you on the move and loving life.



To sign up for a trip,
CALL, EMAIL, or STOP BY!

August 16 – Salt River Tubing

August 20 – Movie and Mini Golf at the Club

August 23 – Kayak/SUP at Lake Pleasant

Sept 6 – Doggie Pool Party

Sept 10 – Movie and Mini Golf at the Club

Sept 13 – Hot Air Balloon Ride

Sept 27 – Granite Valley Hike

October 4 – Lowell Observatory

October 7 – Moonlight Sedona Hike

October 10 – White Tank Camping

October 17 – Mini Golf & Spooky Movie Night in the Park

October 18 – Horseback Riding

October 25 – Fall Train Ride Verde Canyon

October 31 – Fall Fest

LUKE AFB LIBRARY (BLDG 219)

LIBRARY HOURS

Mon: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Tues – Fri: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Sat: 10 AM – 4 PM

Retired military and their family members with a valid ID, may receive a library card, and gain FREE access to books, DVDs, audio books, & down-loadable e-books.

For information: call (623) 856-7191 or online at: daf.dodmwrlibraries.org/luke

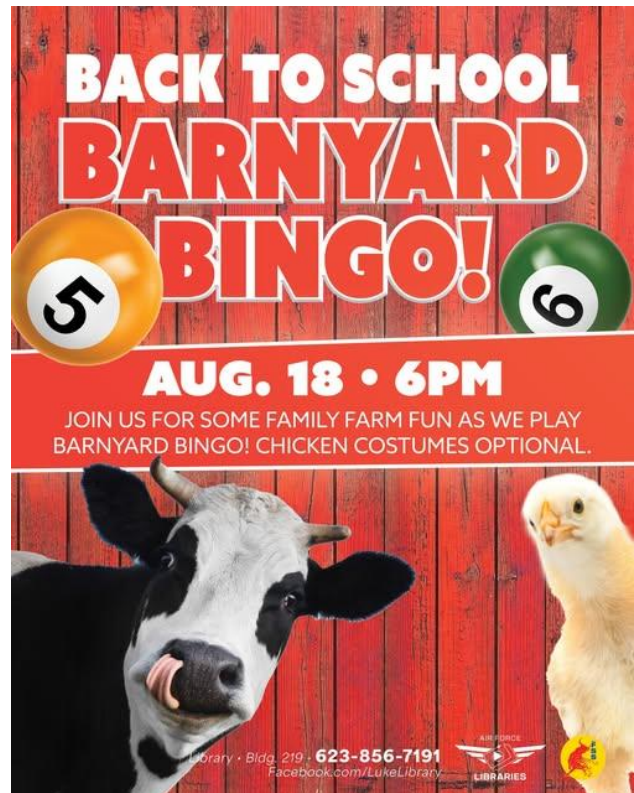
Every Monday: Chess Club 5 PM – 7 PM

Every 4th Saturday:

Paws2Read 10:30 AM – noon

Crochet Club 11 AM – noon

LAFB Scale Modeling Club 10 AM – noon



CONNECT WITH RAO ON FACEBOOK

LUKE AFB RAO OFFICE (623) 856-3923

FALCON DUNES GOLF COURSE

Falcon Dunes: (623) 535-9334
56fss.com/falcon-dunes-golf/



Falcon Dunes Golf Course offers more than just a great place to play a round of golf. Stop by and try the grill for a great lunch and quench your thirst at the bar after 18 holes.

Labor Day Golf Tournament

Date: Monday, September 1, 2025
 Time: 7:30 AM shotgun start, 12:00 PM awards luncheon
 Price: \$60 for Club Members, \$65 For Military and D.O.D, \$70 for Guests
 Description: 4-Player Team Scramble Format, Awards Luncheon and prizes included.
 Entry Deadline: August 30, 2024

MERCHANDISE SALE

Labor Day Sale

Date: 29 Aug - 1 Sep 2025
 Falcon Dunes Golf Course
 Description: 20% off all merchandise (Not valid for golf clubs)

Fall Sale

Date: Monday, October 6th through Monday, October 13th
 Description: 20% off all merchandise (Not valid for golf clubs)

Golf Course Closed

Tues, Aug 5th Golf Course is closed for Aerification.

LUKE AFB INFORMATION, TICKETS & TRAVEL HAS MOVED

ITT (623) 856-6000 / 56FSS.com
 Now at Community Commons Bldg 700

Monday
 8 AM – 5 PM
 Tuesday
 8 AM – 5 PM
 Wednesday
 8 AM – 12 PM
 Thursday
 8 AM – 5 PM
 Friday
 8 AM – 5 PM
 Saturday – Sunday CLOSED

<https://www.facebook.com/luketicketstravel>



STAY CONNECTED WITH ALL THINGS LUKE AFB!

Download the AF Connect app! Base events and announcements will be at your fingertips. Download **"USAF Connect"** from your app store and add **"56th Fighter Wing"** to your favorites.

Check out **Thunderbolt Connect** at www.luke.af.mil/Home/Thunderbolt-Connect/ Available to Airmen, GS employees, and spouses.

2026 LUKE DAYS AIR SHOW

March 21 – 22, 2026, Luke Air Force Base, AZ
<https://www.lukedays.com/>



BASE GUIDE TO SERVICE NUMBERS

<https://mybaseguide.com/base/luke-afb>

Military & Family Readiness	(623) 856-6550
Airman's Attic (Thrift Store)	(480) 886-8715
Auto Hobby Shop	(623) 856-6107
Base Exchange	(623) 935-2671
Base Finance / Comptroller	(623) 856-7028
Casualty Assistance	(623) 856-6550
Chaplain	(623) 856-6211
Club Five Six	(623) 856-6446
Commissary	(623) 337-8374
DEERS	(623) 856-7875
DFAS	(800) 321-1080
Falcon Dunes Golf Course	(623) 535-9334
FAMCAMP	(623) 856-4891
Fighter Country Inn	(623) 856-3941
Firestone Car Care Center	(623) 271-8104
Fitness Center	(623) 856-6241
ID Cards	(623) 856-7875
Legal Assistance	(623) 856-6901
Library	(623) 856-7191
Medical Clinic-Central Appts	(623) 856-2273
National Archives (Records)	(866) 272-6272
Pharmacy - Activate Prescription Refill Prescription	(855) 729-6500 (623) 343-1747
Retiree Activities Office (RAO)	(623) 856-3923
Security Forces	(623) 856-6322
Tickets & Travel (ITT)	(623) 856-6000
TRICARE	(623) 856-4217
TRICARE West (TRIWEST)	(888) 874-9378
TRICARE for Life (TFL)	(866) 773-0404
Veterinary Clinic	(623) 856-6354
Wood Hobby Shop	(623) 856-6566

64? 65? MEDICARE ELIGIBLE? TRICARE FOR LIFE BRIEFINGS

No Reservation Required

Briefings: **TUE 12 AUG 2025**
WED 12 NOV 2025



Briefings start at 9:00 AM & 1:00 PM

Who: TRICARE Beneficiaries who are eligible for Medicare Part A and B

What: TRICARE For Life (TFL) briefings are for TRICARE beneficiaries that have questions or want to learn more about the TFL program

Where: Luke Air Force Base Theater: Bldg 1515

Questions? Please call Marlyn Shults at (623) 856-4300 or e-mail: dha.ncr.56th-MDG.mbx.56-mdg-bcac@health.mil

Luke AFB RAO Hails & Farewells

FAREWELL & THANK YOU

Ryan Atkinson, MSgt (ret), USAF

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

We welcome your suggestions for content.

Contact Editor at 56FW.RAO@us.af.mil with "Newsletter" in subject line. The RAO Newsletter is published quarterly by the Luke AFB RAO. All information was accurate at date of publication and subject to change without notice. **To receive this newsletter electronically, please send your email address to 56FW.RAO@us.af.mil.**

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