



Bulletin from Mayor Elaine Scruggs

Glendale is one of six cities throughout the nation that have been chosen to host Air Force Week from March 19 to 25. As the week approaches, I would like to reflect on Luke Air Force Base's history in Glendale and the significant impact that the Base has on our city, our state and our nation.



Luke Field was built in 1941 on 1,440 acres of land ten miles west of Glendale. During World War II, Luke Field trained over 12,000 pilots and was the largest fighter pilot training base in the Air Corps. A year after the war ended the number of pilots had dropped significantly and Luke Field was shut down. By 1951, fighting started in Korea and Luke Field was permanently re-activated as Luke Air Force Base under the reorganized U.S. Air Force. Luke is now the largest fighter pilot training base in the Western World.

Those of you who have been in Glendale for some time know that Luke was once surrounded by agricultural land, ideal for maintaining the mission of the base. You have also witnessed the rapid population growth and development that has taken in some areas that surround the Base over the past several decades. The City of Glendale annexed Luke Air Force Base in 1995 so that we could better manage this development and to protect the mission of the Base. We took this action because we recognized the contributions that Luke makes to the security of our nation, to the state's economy and as a community partner.

The Base has over 8,000 employees and contributes nearly \$2 billion to the state's economy. Glendale, and most other Arizona cities, benefit financially from Luke in multiple ways: its contracts for goods and services, its visitors who stay and tour the state; and the military and civilian personnel who buy houses and spend their money at various businesses throughout our communities.

The Base also has a very strong presence through community outreach activities. Luke contributes nearly 100,000 community volunteer hours annually. These contributions include such things as participating in school activities, coaching sports, partnering with non-profit agencies and civic organizations and taking part in community fund raisers. What better role models for our youth and community members than those who have chosen to dedicate their lives to serving our country?

Luke Air Force personnel are our neighbors, our partners and our friends. As you see them in your local grocery stores, your schools and your places of worship, please take your time to show your support and appreciation for all they do.

Thank you taking the time to read my "Glendale Bulletins". Please contact me at (623) 930-2260 or mayorscruggs@glendaleaz.com, if you have any comments or questions. I strive to provide the most timely information and best possible service to you, the citizens of Glendale. I sincerely appreciate your feedback.
