

SPOTLIGHT



LUKE AIR FORCE BASE Glendale, Arizona

Luke Air Force Base is a major training base of the Air Education and Training Command with the mission to train the world's greatest fighter pilots and combat ready airmen. Luke AFB is home to the 56th Fighter Wing, the largest fighter wing in the Air Force. Each year, the base

trains more than 100 F-16 pilots and more than 100 F-35A pilots. The base trains 75% of the world's F-35 pilots. The base has one of the highest graduating ranks in the world, with around 500 graduate pilots and more than 700 maintenance technicians every year.

Luke Air Force Base is named for the WWI flying ace Lieutenant Frank Luke Jr., the first aviator to receive the Medal of Honor. During World War II, it was the largest fighter training base in the Army Air Force, graduating more than 59,000 pilots and air crew. The base began its F-16 fighter pilot training program in 1983 and has trained more than 20,000 Falcon pilots since that time. The base received its first F-35A in 2014 and is now home to more than 70 F-35A Falcon fighter planes. The base also provides support for over 5,500 military and civilian employees on base, as well as about 6,700 family members and 65,000 military retirees who live in the Phoenix area. ¹

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¹ <https://www.luke.af.mil/>