VHR VETERAN HOME RESOURCE

2026–2027 EDITION

GLENDALE, ARIZONA

LUKE

AIR FORCE BASE

The Base Guide for Airmen, Civilians, Military Families and Veterans



F-35A Lightning IIs from Luke AFB over the West Valley. U.S. Air Force photo via DVIDS.

Check-in, housing, where to live and what to know

Scan for homes near Luke

LeRoy Romero · 623-293-0044

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

LeRoy Romero · AZ Real Estate License SA649157000 · AXEN Realty, LLC

Veteran Home Resource is a privately owned company and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, or any branch of the U.S. military.

The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.

WELCOME TO LUKE AIR FORCE BASE

From one Veteran to the next.

I shipped to boot camp in August 1996 and served as an 0311 in the Marine Corps. I know what it's like to get orders, pack up your life and figure out a new town in a hurry.

I've been helping military families and Veterans buy homes in Arizona since 2013, and the West Valley around Luke is where I've lived and worked. I put this guide together so you have the essentials in one place: what to do when you check in, where people live, what the area is like, and who to call.

Keep it, print it, share it with your spouse or your sponsor. And if you want a straight answer about living off base, call me. No pressure, no sales pitch.

Quick numbers

Emergency: 911
Veterans & Military Crisis Line: 988, press 1
56th Medical Group appointments: 623-856-2273
Airman & Family Readiness: 623-856-6550
Lodging (Fighter Country Inn): 623-856-3941

LeRoy Romero

Veteran. Advocate. Educator.

Reach LeRoy
623-293-0044
LeRoy@VeteranHomeResource.com
veteranhomeresource.com



Families at Luke Air Force Base. U.S. Air Force photo via DVIDS.

LeRoy Romero · AZ Real Estate License SA649157000 · AXEN Realty, LLC

Veteran Home Resource is a privately owned company and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, or any branch of the U.S. military.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

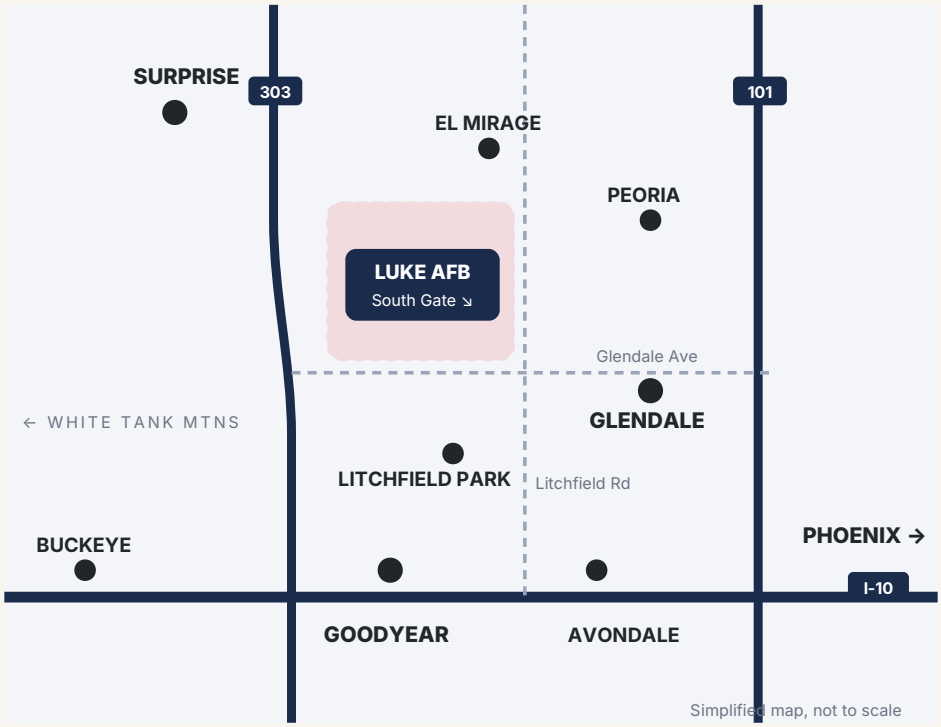
The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.

THE INSTALLATION

Luke at a glance

Luke Air Force Base is home to the 56th Fighter Wing, which trains F-35A Lightning II pilots for the U.S. Air Force and partner nations. The last F-16 training sortie flew here on September 30, 2024, and Luke now flies the F-35A only.

BRANCH	HOST UNIT	MISSION
U.S. Air Force	56th Fighter Wing	F-35A pilot training



Who works here

Active-duty Airmen, Air Force Reserve Airmen of the 944th Fighter Wing, partner-nation students, federal civilians and contractors.

Getting there

Luke sits in the West Valley at Litchfield Road and Glendale Avenue. Newcomers and visitors use the South Gate off Litchfield Road. From I-10, take exit 128 and head north on Litchfield Road.

Official site

luke.af.mil

LeRoy Romero · AZ Real Estate License SA649157000 · AXEN Realty, LLC

Veteran Home Resource is a privately owned company and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, or any branch of the U.S. military.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

PRINT IT AND CHECK IT OFF

Your check-in checklist

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- ☐ **Connect with your sponsor**
  No sponsor yet? Ask your gaining unit for a name and number.
- ☐ **Book lodging early**
  Fighter Country Inn · 623-856-3941 · book at af.dodlodging.net. Pet rooms are limited.
- ☐ **Schedule your household goods**
  Online through DPS · TMO 623-856-6425
- ☐ **Get on the child care waitlist**
  militarychildcare.com
- ☐ **Hand-carry your records**
  Orders, ID cards, LES, marriage and birth certificates, shot records (people and pets), school records, car title, registration and insurance
- ☐ **Keep every travel receipt**

DAY ONE

- ☐ **Duty hours: report to your unit's Commander's Support Staff in uniform**
  Then the Military Personnel Section, first floor of Bldg 1150
- ☐ **After hours or weekends: check in at the Fighter Country Inn**
  Bldg 660. Report to your unit the next duty day.

FIRST WEEK

- ☐ **Attend Medical Right Start**
  Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m., at the medical clinic. Mandatory for active duty.
- ☐ **Attend the Wing Orientation**
  Your unit schedules it. Spouses are invited.
- ☐ **File your travel voucher**
- ☐ **Ask about permissive TDY for house hunting**
  Request it before you start looking, or it may come out of your leave.

FIRST MONTH

- ☐ **Families: check in with the Housing Referral Office within 30 days**
  1368 Kachina St., Room 109 · 623-856-7643
- ☐ **Get a Maricopa County emissions test before registering a car**
- ☐ **Visit the Airman & Family Readiness Center**
  Bldg 1113, across from Fowler Park · 623-856-6550
- ☐ **Enroll the kids in school**
- ☐ **Decide: base housing, rent or buy**
  Call LeRoy · 623-293-0044

Visiting Luke?

Visitors 15 and older without a military ID need a pass. Sponsors meet guests at the Visitor Reception Center by the South Gate (Bldg 899, 623-856-4759). Pre-register online through DBIDS, and bring a valid license, registration and proof of insurance.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

LeRoy Romero · AZ Real Estate License SA649157000 · AXEN Realty, LLC

Veteran Home Resource is a privately owned company and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, or any branch of the U.S. military.

WHO TO CALL

Where to go

OFFICE	LOCATION	PHONE
Military Personnel Section / ID cards	Bldg 1150, first floor	623-856-7875
Civilian Personnel (by appointment)	Bldg 1150	623-856-2120
Airman & Family Readiness Center	Bldg 1113, across from Fowler Park	623-856-6550
Housing Referral Office	1368 Kachina St., Room 109	623-856-7643
Luke Family Homes (on-base family housing)	1368 Kachina St.	623-388-3515
Lodging (Fighter Country Inn)	Bldg 660, open 24 hours	623-856-3941
56th Medical Group (appointments)	Bldg 1130	623-856-2273
Household goods (TMO)	On base	623-856-6425
Military Pay	On base	623-856-7028
Legal Assistance	On base	623-856-6901
Child Development Center	On base	623-856-6338
Visitor Reception Center	Bldg 899, South Gate	623-856-4759
Military OneSource	militaryonesource.mil	800-342-9647

Hours and numbers change. Confirm with the office or at luke.af.mil before you go. Current as of November 2026.

Get the app

Search your app store for the official Luke AFB app for current hours, services and gate alerts.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

LeRoy Romero · AZ Real Estate License SA649157000 · AXEN Realty, LLC

Veteran Home Resource is a privately owned company and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, or any branch of the U.S. military.

HOUSING

Base housing, rent or buy?

Single Airmen E-1 to E-3, and E-4s with under three years of service, generally live in the dorms. Families and higher-ranking Airmen can choose base housing or the local area.

	BASE HOUSING	RENTING OFF BASE	BUYING OFF BASE
Homes	2 to 4 bedrooms by rank, from multiplexes to detached homes	Apartments to single-family homes	Your pick of cities and neighborhoods
Commute	Shortest	About 10 to 30 minutes	About 10 to 30 minutes
Flexibility	Easy in, easy out	Lease terms; ask for a military clause	Sell or rent it out when you move
Upkeep	Handled for you	Landlord handles most	Yours
After you leave	Nothing to show for it	Nothing to show for it	Possible rental income and equity

Start with the Housing Referral Office

Families check in within 30 days of arrival (623-856-7643). They'll get you on the base housing waitlist or help with off-base listings and leases. Base homes are run by Luke Family Homes (623-388-3515).

Check your BAH

Look up your rate by rank with the Defense Travel Management Office BAH calculator. Luke ZIP: 85309.

Know about jet noise

Some West Valley neighborhoods sit under Luke's flight paths. Arizona requires disclosure when a home is near a military airport, and the base publishes noise maps. Ask before you sign, and drive the area at different times of day.

If you rent

Ask for a military clause, and walk the place with the landlord using a written move-in checklist.

Thinking about buying near Luke?

Scan to search homes within commuting distance of Luke, or call LeRoy at 623-293-0044. Arizona agent since 2013, buyer representation and negotiation.

LeRoy Romero · AZ Real Estate License SA649157000 · AXEN Realty, LLC

Veteran Home Resource is a privately owned company and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, or any branch of the U.S. military.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

WHERE TO LIVE

Where Luke families live

The West Valley gives you a lot of choice within a short drive of the South Gate. Drive times are approximate with normal traffic.

Litchfield Park

about 10 min

Small, quiet city just south of the base, with tree-lined streets, golf and a mix of older and newer homes.

Glendale and Peoria (west side)

about 15–25 min

Established neighborhoods, the Westgate entertainment district, spring training ballparks and plenty of shopping.

Surprise and El Mirage

about 15–25 min

North of the base. Newer master-planned communities, parks and some of the more affordable newer homes in the area.

Goodyear and Avondale

about 15–25 min

South toward I-10. Fast-growing, newer subdivisions, big retail and easy freeway access into Phoenix.

Buckeye and Verrado

about 20–35 min

West along I-10 at the foot of the White Tank Mountains. Larger lots, new construction and room to grow.

See what's for sale near Luke

Scan for live listings across the West Valley and set up alerts for the neighborhoods you like.

LeRoy Romero · AZ Real Estate License SA649157000 · AXEN Realty, LLC

Veteran Home Resource is a privately owned company and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, or any branch of the U.S. military.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ARIZONA AND YOUR MONEY

Taxes and the cost of living here

ACTIVE DUTY AND RESERVE PAY

Not taxed by Arizona

MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY

Not taxed by Arizona

Arizona income tax

Arizona exempts military pay from state income tax. Military retirement pay is fully exempt too, which is one reason so many Veterans retire in the Valley. Other income, like a civilian or spouse paycheck, is taxed at Arizona's flat income tax rate.

Your home state of record

Under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, you can usually keep your home state of record while stationed here, and your spouse may be able to keep theirs. Talk to the base Legal Assistance office (623-856-6901) or a tax professional about your situation.

Property tax for Disabled Veterans

Arizona offers a property tax exemption for Veterans with a service-connected disability, sized to the disability rating. Income and value limits apply, so check with the Maricopa County Assessor.

Cars and emissions

Nonresident active-duty members can often keep their home-state plates, or register here without paying Arizona's vehicle license tax (get the exemption form from Legal). Cars driven on base must meet Maricopa County emissions rules, including out-of-state vehicles.

Civilians and contractors

Your paycheck is taxed by Arizona like any resident's. Arizona uses a flat state income tax rate, and there's no state tax on Social Security benefits.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

LeRoy Romero · AZ Real Estate License SA649157000 · AXEN Realty, LLC

Veteran Home Resource is a privately owned company and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, or any branch of the U.S. military.

FAMILY LIFE

Schools, healthcare and pets

SCHOOLS

Most families near Luke land in the Dysart Unified, Litchfield Elementary or Agua Fria Union High districts. Several West Valley schools hold Arizona's Purple Star designation for supporting military kids.

- Kindergarten: age 5 by September 1
- Bring an up-to-date immunization record
- Public, charter and private options, plus home-school support

Colleges nearby: Estrella Mountain and Glendale community colleges, Arizona State University West, and education programs on base.

HEALTHCARE

56th Medical Group: 623-856-2273. For emergencies, call 911.

Veterans: the Phoenix VA Health Care System has community clinics in the West Valley.

CHILD CARE

The Child Development Center (623-856-6338) and Family Child Care homes fill up. Get on the list early at militarychildcare.com.

PETS

- Some Fighter Country Inn rooms take pets. Call 623-856-3941, and bring shot records.
- Off base: license pets with your city or Maricopa County

Desert dangers

Coyotes will go after cats and small dogs. Keep pets in at night or stay with them. Watch for scorpions, rattlesnakes, black widows and Africanized bees. Summer pavement burns paws: walk early and late.

SUMMER HEAT

Phoenix regularly passes 110°F in summer. Never leave kids or pets in a parked car, carry water, and plan outdoor work and PT for early morning.

LeRoy Romero · AZ Real Estate License SA649157000 · AXEN Realty, LLC

Veteran Home Resource is a privately owned company and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, or any branch of the U.S. military.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

OFF DUTY

Things to do in the West Valley

CLOSE TO HOME

- White Tank Mountain Regional Park: hiking, mountain biking and a seasonal waterfall trail.
- Lake Pleasant Regional Park: boating, paddleboarding and fishing.
- Spring training: Cactus League ballparks in Goodyear, Surprise, Peoria and Glendale.
- Westgate: restaurants, shops and pro football and hockey in Glendale.
- Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium & Safari Park in Litchfield Park.
- Luke Days: when it's held, the base opens its gates for an air show with the F-35A.

DAY TRIPS

- Sedona red rocks: about 2 hours north.
- Flagstaff: snow, pines and cooler summers, about 2.5 hours north.
- Grand Canyon South Rim: about 3.5 to 4 hours north.
- Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point): beach trip about 4 hours south. Bring a passport or passport card, and check unit travel rules first.



A Luke F-35A over the Arizona desert. U.S. Air Force photo via DVIDS.

LeRoy Romero · AZ Real Estate License SA649157000 · AXEN Realty, LLC

Veteran Home Resource is a privately owned company and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, or any branch of the U.S. military.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.

STRAIGHT ANSWERS

Questions families ask

01 **How long is the wait for base housing?**

It changes with the season and your bedroom requirement. Check in with the Housing Referral Office as soon as you have orders so you know where you stand before you commit to a lease.

02 **Will I hear the jets?**

Depends on the neighborhood. Homes under the flight paths hear the F-35s on flying days. Ask for the military airport disclosure and look at the noise maps before you sign anything.

03 **Can I buy a home before I get to Arizona?**

Yes. Video tours, digital signing and a local agent on the ground make it possible to buy from where you are now.

04 **What if I move again in a few years?**

Many military owners keep the home and rent it out. The West Valley has a deep rental market and steady demand from people moving to the Phoenix area.

05 **Does it cost anything to have an agent help me buy?**

In most purchases, buyer agent compensation is negotiated as part of the deal, and sellers often contribute. LeRoy will explain exactly how it works in writing, before you look at a single home.

Get listing alerts near Luke

Scan to set your price range and neighborhoods. Or text or call LeRoy at 623-293-0044.

LeRoy Romero · AZ Real Estate License SA649157000 · AXEN Realty, LLC

Veteran Home Resource is a privately owned company and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, or any branch of the U.S. military.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

YOUR WEST VALLEY REAL ESTATE CONTACT

LeRoy Romero

Veteran. Advocate. Educator.



USMC Veteran, 0311. Arizona real estate agent since 2013. My work is buyer representation and negotiation: finding the home you love and getting it under contract on good terms.

Most of the families I've worked with wear or wore the uniform, or serve alongside those who do. I'd be glad to help yours.

Let's talk

623-293-0044

LeRoy@VeteranHomeResource.com
veteranhomeresource.com

Equal Housing Opportunity. LeRoy Romero, Arizona Real Estate Salesperson License SA649157000, AXEN Realty, LLC, 5559 S Sossaman Rd, Bldg 1 #101, Mesa, AZ 85212. Veteran Home Resource is a privately owned company and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, or any branch of the U.S. military. The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement. Installation information is provided as a convenience and may change; confirm with Luke Air Force Base. © 2026 Veteran Home Resource.