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**Subject:** Flash Traffic: 02-05-2013: Luke Days Canceled  
**Date:** Friday, February 15, 2013 9:04:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

## Perch Base USSVJ

# Flash Traffic

**NUMBER:** 02-05-2013      **DATE:** 02/15/2013

**SUBJECT:** "Luke Days" (March 15-17) Cancelled

By Jane Lednovich--The Arizona Republic--12 News Breaking News TeamFri Feb 15, 2013 6:09 PM  
(The author's article has been shortened for purpose of this usage.)

Luke Air Force Base officials announced Friday they have canceled their March air show that hundreds of thousands of people attend due to the possibility of steep federal financial cuts, according to a press release.

Luke officials said they don't want to waste taxpayer dollars with the threat of a deal not being reached on the massive, across-the-board spending cuts. Part of the Glendale base's plan to reduce costs includes significantly reducing flying not directly related to pilot training, the release said.

The automatic cuts — a process known as sequestration — were put into place by a bipartisan budget compromise in August 2011 that averted a default on the federal debt.

"Given the budgetary pressures and expected repercussions if sequestration goes into effect, we need to cancel this year's Luke Days," Brig. Gen. Michael Rothstein, 56th Fighter Wing commander, said in the press release.

"I cannot in good conscience spend some of our limited resources to host an Open House, while the Defense Department considers potential civilian furloughs."

"Storm on the Horizon," the base's dual open house and air show, was originally scheduled for March 16 and 17. No dates have been announced for any future open houses.

The West Valley base has long been the training home of F-16 pilots. In August, the Pentagon announced that the base will train pilots on the F-35, billed as the military's next generation fighter jet.

Luke opened in 1941 in what is today far west Glendale. A decade later, the base hosted its first air show to showcase its strengths to the community.

Residents loved it. In 2009, just more than 200,000 attended the two-day air show. In 2011, that grew to an estimated 260,000 attendees.

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