

Washington State Club visits the Luke Airforce Base January 30, 2024

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The Washington State Club of SCW decided it was time for our annual visit to the Luke Air Force Base to get a “behind the scenes” look at the fighter jets streaking across our sky. The group of 30 Club members and guests was greeted at the visitors’ kiosk by SrA Zoie Cox. She gave us a brief introduction then we were off on our tour!

We walked through an outdoor display of fighter jets, from past wars. Dr. John Hale, a military historian and archeologist pointed out characteristics of the planes. [photo #1] He described how the jets were modified and improved as a result of their challenges in battle. Dr. Hale fielded lots of questions from the group, and members shared their own experiences with the various jets.

We watched fuel trucks come into the main fuel yard and learned there’s a direct supply pipe line into the base. The fuel is carefully tested and monitored so the jet planes are using only the most pure form. Anything less is used for other purposes or rejected. Water, rust, and minute particles can cause failure or damage the planes.

Ever wonder how a parachute is packaged? [Photo #2] MSgt Michael Hinojosa explained the meticulous process that protects the lives of pilots who depend on their parachute if they must eject the plane. Along with the ‘chute, the pilot has a state-of-the-art high tech helmet and a life-preserver box containing everything from waterproof matches, compass, dry food (not very tasty we were told), and lifeboat. [Photo #3, 4]

The men and women who opened their airbase home to us reflect the very best of our Airforce personnel. We respect their devotion to our country and honor their commitment to the service. We look forward to seeing them again next year! [photo 5]

Luke Airforce Base Photos

Photo #1: Dr. John Hale



Photo #2: Parachute



Photo #3: Life boat



Photo #4: Helmet



Photo #5: Airman's Creed

