

October 9, 2009

Luke AFB Supporters
5850 W. Glendale Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85301

Dear Luke AFB Supporters,

The Valley of the Sun YMCA is one of the states largest not-for-profit community service organizations and has a membership base of 22,000 individuals and 15,000 program volunteers. Our goal of building strong kids, strong families and strong communities reaches to all demographics. The Armed Services YMCA is another component we are a strong part of, and as an organization was heavily responsible for the creation of the USO in support of our military servicemen and their families. That tradition of support is carried out through the Armed Services YMCA and each YMCA association working together closely with the military component within their community.

The history of the YMCA and the tradition of the military in Arizona make the decision to support Luke AFB and the F-35 mission an easy one. We have many roles within our community, and the support of the military and their families plays a strong one. We focus our attention on the families of the deployed and those with the rank of E-5 or lower, and the support is accepted with great appreciation.

In our efforts to continue our support for Luke AFB, we would want all individuals to understand the support Luke AFB receives on all levels from throughout the community. As the YMCA speaks to other associations across the country who works closely with their respective military bases, we see first hand the respect Luke AFB has earned. This respect is a direct reflection to how well Luke AFB communicates and works with their surroundings.

At the YMCA, we are proud of our efforts as a supporter of Luke AFB and will continue our efforts to create the continued legacy of military tradition within our communities. We understand the history of Luke AFB, we understand the current mission of Luke AFB, and believe that Luke AFB is deserving of the F-35 mission. They have consistently trained the world's greatest fighter pilots, and should continue to in the future.

The YMCA was created by volunteers and is a volunteer driven organization, and Luke AFB contributes to that donated effort. The airmen of Luke AFB volunteer at community events, US Competitive swim meets and multiple other collaborative events the YMCA is involved in. It is this type of community support and reciprocity that encompasses the importance of Luke AFB. The community knows they are an asset, and Luke AFB knows their community is an asset. The future missions of Luke AFB will be appreciative of that tradition, and that tradition will assist in ensuring success.

The current Environmental Impact Study (EIS) is the correct format for any organization, citizen, municipality or private enterprise to voice their support or concerns on the F-35 Mission, and will allow any party to express that concern or support in a public forum. The Valley of the Sun YMCA will provide the support we can to continue to have the World's Largest Fighter Wing in our backyards.

Respectfully,



Gregory W. O'Brien
President/CEO
Valley of the Sun YMCA

VALLEY OF
THE SUN
YMCA



We build strong kids,
strong families,
strong communities.

Valley of the Sun YMCA
Association Services
350 North 1st Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85003
602-257-5120
Fax: 602-257-5136
www.valleymca.org

