



City of Show Low

September 8, 2009

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Luke Air Force Base Supporters
c/o Office of Mayor Elaine Scruggs
City of Glendale
5850 West Glendale Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85301

Dear Luke AFB Supporters:

On behalf of the City of Show Low, I wanted to express our strong support for the continuation of Luke Air Force Base as one of the nation's premier fighter pilot training installations. Since 1941, Luke AFB has been a major component of Arizona's military network and a significant contributor to our state's economy.

As the world's only active duty F-16 training base, Luke AFB's economic impact is over \$2.1 billion annually, comparable to Arizona hosting four Super Bowls every year. In addition, the base is listed as one of Arizona's 20 largest employers with over 7,000 jobs.

The Department of Defense will begin studying Luke Air Force Base as the possible second training site for the F-35 Lightning II, which will replace the F-16 Fighting Falcon. We understand that Luke is one of two sites under consideration. Siting the F-35 training mission at Luke would generate over \$150 million in new construction projects, equal to all the military construction funding Arizona received from 2005 to 2007. This would be a huge economic boon for our state's ailing economy.

Luke Air Force Base is a very important contributor to and participant in our state's economic landscape. We join with other organizations and communities to urge the Department of Defense to select Luke Air Force Base as a second training site for the F-35 Lightning II. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (928) 537-7751.

Sincerely,

Rick Fernau
Mayor