



L.E. "Lyn" Truitt, Mayor
City of Surprise
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, Arizona 85374
623-222-1300/222-1301 fax

Dear Luke AFB Supporters,

Surprise has been a proud supporter of Luke Air Force Base for decades. As mayor, I not only recognize the enormous impact Luke has on the economy of the West Valley and the state of Arizona, but I admire and support its critical mission of protecting our freedoms by training the world's best F-16 pilots.

Now, I encourage you to get involved in assuring that Luke continues to move ahead. The next generation of fighter aircraft, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), will replace the F-16 and other fighting jets by the year 2020. The Air Force is determining whether Luke AFB or Mountain Home AFB in Idaho will be the new training home of the F-35 JSF.

Clearly, Luke is a superior candidate. With year round flying weather, proximity to the Goldwater Range and record of success with the F-16, Luke brings obvious assets to the table.

The F-35 brings assets of its own. Several countries have already agreed to use this exciting next-generation fighter, meaning Luke will host an aircraft that will be in-demand worldwide for many years. That will assure Arizona, the West Valley and Luke AFB a long future together, with the \$2.7 billion annual economic impact and the regional pride that goes with it.

We can also expect approximately \$150 million in new military construction projects at Luke AFB if we are selected, bringing much needed jobs and opportunity to our area.

What can you do to help? The Air Force will begin an Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, process later this year. This is part of selecting a new home for the F-35 JSF. The EIS process includes public meetings and the opportunity for public comment. This is our opportunity to show our support for Luke and for basing the F-35 right here in the West Valley. Find out how to make your voice heard in this process, and sign up to be a "Friend of Luke" by visiting www.lukeforward.com, a web site for all of us who stand behind the mission of Luke AFB.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

L. E. "Lyn" Truitt, Mayor
City of Surprise