



Office of the Mayor

September 2, 2009

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

RE: Luke AFB Support

Dear Luke AFB Supporters:

On behalf of the Town of Gila Bend, it is my distinct pleasure to offer this letter of support for Luke AFB, and specifically, its continuance as one of the nation's premier fighter pilot training installations.

Luke AFB existed well before any housing boom, and has proven to be critical to our local and statewide economy, and most importantly, our national defense. Gila Bend is pleased to have the Goldwater Auxiliary Field as its neighbor and a partner, where we experience firsthand the positive impacts on our community, albeit on a much smaller scale. Many of our residents and vendors are employed at the Goldwater Auxiliary Field.

The positive economic impacts of Luke AFB are well documented. Should the region lose Luke AFB, the site will likely become a hotbed for primarily residential development – an economic development model which has proven to be unsustainable. It is clear that Luke's ongoing, long-term presence in the region is critical to the economic, environmental, and social sustainability of the entire West Valley, the Phoenix Metropolitan Area, Maricopa County, and the State of Arizona.

We are pleased to be counted as one of "Luke's Supporters" and, by doing so, supporting our fellow West Valley Cities. We are a member and supporter of the Fighter Country Partnership, and fully endorse the Luke Air Force Base being selected as the home of the F-35 mission.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Henry".

Ron Henry
Mayor