



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

September 1, 2009

Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the U.S. Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330

Dear Secretary Donley:

I know you are aware of the vital role that Luke Air Force Base serves in our national defense -- as it has done since the first class of students, arrived on June 6, 1941 to begin advanced flight training.

But as a founding member of Luke's Fighter Country Partnership, I wanted to let you know of my particularly deep and abiding interest in securing Luke's long-term future, and why I am urging the Department of Defense to select Luke as a training site for the F-35 Lightning II -- Joint Strike Fighter.

Luke's unique assets include its proximity to the 2.7-million acre Barry M. Goldwater Range, key to air-to-ground combat training, along with 57,000 cubic miles of airspace overhead where pilots practice air-to-air maneuvers and engage targets on the ground. Frankly, no other area in the country can compare in size, scope and tactical training ability.

When you add Luke's excellent weather (less than 3% of scheduled sorties are canceled due to weather) support functions -- and extraordinary community support -- I am confident that, just as the first class in 1941 learned, you will determine there is no finer place to train the world's best pilots, than Luke Air Force Base.

Sincerely,

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: General Kurt Neubauer
Mayor Elaine Scruggs