

City of Litchfield Park

August 20, 2009

The Honorable Elaine Scruggs
Mayor, City of Glendale
5850 W. Glendale Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85301

Dear Mayor Scruggs and fellow Luke AFB Supporters:

I am writing to you on behalf of all the citizens of the City of Litchfield Park and particularly the many retired service personnel in our city. We understand that Luke AFB is an incredible national and local asset.

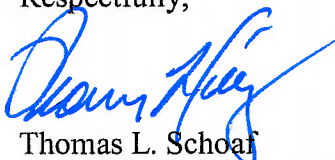
Over the years our community partners, both private and public, have spent significant time building a strong and lasting partnership with Luke AFB. We continue to work together to protect the rights of our citizens while furthering the missions of our military installations throughout Arizona.

While the West Valley surrounding Luke AFB has had significant growth, we have also managed to balance that growth with the protection of Luke AFB. Our Compatibility Standards were developed through a public process. They are nationally recognized because they protect both our citizens and the ability of Luke AFB to successfully perform its mission. It is because of steadfast community support, our prime weather conditions, access to the Barry Goldwater Range, and our noise and crash zone legislation that I believe Luke AFB is a prime candidate for the F-35 training base.

Luke AFB is one of the largest employers in Arizona contributing an estimated \$2.17 Billion annually to our state and local economy. Luke AFB is a consistent economic powerhouse that does not see the peaks and valleys, the booms and busts, of many other economic contributors. Simply put, Luke AFB is critical to our Nation's defense; Luke AFB is critical to the state of Arizona; Luke AFB is critical to Maricopa County; Luke AFB is critical to the West Valley; Luke AFB is critical to the City of Litchfield Park.

I believe that when the Department of Defense weighs the ability of Luke AFB to effectively perform the mission of training our nation's next generation of fighter pilots, along with the impact of bedding down the second F-35 training mission at Luke AFB including the economic impact to the state and its regions, the longstanding, unwavering support Luke AFB receives from the community, and its history and favorable location, the best decision for our Air Force will be Luke AFB.

Respectfully,



Thomas L. Schoaf
Mayor, City of Litchfield Park