

MOHAVE COUNTY BOARD of SUPERVISORS

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August 11, 2009

Steven Methvin
Office of the Mayor
5850 West Glendale Avenue
Glendale, Arizona 85301-2599

Dear Mr. Methvin,

I'm writing this letter in support of maintaining Luke Air Force Base as the fighter pilot training center for the new, F35 aircraft.

Having spent 32 years in the aerospace industry, I understand the importance of having a training facility in close proximity to a metropolitan area where there is access to a well trained workforce. I worked on several flight test programs during my career, conducted in different parts of the country and am well aware of how important weather conditions are to a flight training and testing facility.

The location of Luke Air Force Base will certainly fill the requirement for cloudless flying days and access to a nearby test range. The climate lends itself to year round uninterrupted flying, allowing pilots to be trained in the shortest amount of time.

I fully support the F-35 mission.

Sincerely,

Tom Sockwell, Chairman
Mohave County Board of Supervisors, District 2
1130 Hancock Road
Bullhead City, Arizona 86442