



City of Phoenix
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



MAYOR PHIL GORDON

August 20, 2009

Dear Luke Air Force Base Supporters:

Phoenix, and its surrounding metropolitan area, has a long and distinguished relationship with aviation. Our City has been strong and visionary when it comes to the increasing importance of Sky Harbor, now the fifth busiest airport in the country. We have diligently predicted the future usage of Sky Harbor, and have planned decades in advance to meet the demands and challenges of the traveling public.

As important as Sky Harbor is to the Valley's needs and economy, we host another center of aviation in the Valley that is no less important. In many ways, its future is directly tied to our own – Luke Air Force Base.

In 1940, Franklin Roosevelt directed the military to produce 12,000 pilots a year. In 1941, Phoenix bought the land, ground was broken and Luke Air Base was born. Since then, the men and women of Luke have contributed mightily to our local economy, our national defense and our global pursuit of freedom.

Phoenix, and the surrounding cities and towns of our community, must be good stewards and dedicated trustees of Luke.

That's why we're writing you in its support and its selection as an F-35 training base. Simply put, without the F-35 training mission, Luke will not have a flying mission.

A number of Arizona cities recently commissioned what's called the Maguire Study – a comprehensive, statewide analysis of the overall economic impact of the principal military operations in the state of Arizona representing public and political support for the preservation and strengthening of Arizona's "Military industry". The Maguire Study confirmed that the total economic impact of Luke AFB is substantial and profound, regardless of economic times. The \$2.17 billion that Luke contributes to our annual economy is the same as hosting four Super Bowls every year – and makes Luke one of the largest employers in the State.

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Luke Air Force Base matters. To Phoenix, to Arizona, to freedom. On behalf of the 1.5 million residents of Phoenix, we fully and wholeheartedly support Luke's designation as an F-35 training base.

Sincerely,



Phil Gordon
Mayor



Thelda Williams
Councilwoman
District 1



Claude Mattox
Councilman
District 5



Michael Nowakowski
Councilman
District 7