

GLENDALE REPUBLIC

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City must clarify that Luke idea is Super's alone

El Mirage has struggled for years to get respect and due consideration of its issues. It's unfortunate that in recent months many of its attempts to get attention have landed with a thud — and sometimes been received with expletives and rolling eyes.

OUR VIEW

Councilman Adam Super holds the string of the latest lead balloon. He recently wrote a strange letter suggesting the only way to protect Luke Air Force Base from encroachment was to raze everything within a 7-mile radius of it.

The "Luke Encroachment Neutral Zone" "would be cleared of all habitation, businesses, industry and any other threats to Luke's mission. This is the only way to insure (sic) that encroach-



Adam Super

ment will never threaten Luke's vital raison d'être," he wrote in a letter dated April 8 and sent to leaders in nine cities and Maricopa County.

"Am I facetious or serious?" Super said last week to reporter Cecilia Chan. "I think a little bit of both would be the best way to describe that." The best ways to describe Super's stunt is unhelpful and counterproductive. But that's pretty much the way El Mirage has handled its efforts to raise concerns about the new F-35 jet-fighter training mission that Arizona is trying so hard to secure for Luke.

public-relations maneuvers to influence how the Defense Department decides who gets the F-35 training mission.



MICHAEL MCNAMARA/THE REPUBLIC

Super takes full ownership of the letter he sent to the cities and county. He said his idea for the Luke Encroachment Neutral Zone isn't something he cooked up with fellow council members.

But now that he has thrown the concept out there and doesn't flatly say he's just kidding, the City Council has no choice but to make clear its position on it.

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El Mirage's gaffes and missteps began a year ago when the city caught West Valley cities by surprise in going to Washington to ask for \$400 million in reparations for the pain of accommodating operations at Luke. The city continues to aggressively engage in