
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Veteran warns El Mirage mayor

As a veteran of 22 years, I've seen base closures and realignments both here and abroad. The economic impact reaches deep within the local community, far beyond the service member and

the DOD civilian. With a city of 40,000, El Mirage, should Luke close, will lose the dollars poured into their community by the base's nearly 8,000 military and civilian personnel. Luke's total economic impact in Arizona is \$2.17 billion. Business around the base, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Subway, tailor shops, barber

shops, etc., will vanish. City leaders like yourself (Mayor Waterman) make the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) Commission's job easy. Mr. Mayor, you are turning your back on a base that volunteered over 100,000 hours in community services in 2008, and all because you want to build more houses. Well sir,

if Luke goes away, you will: 1) have a surplus of vacated houses; 2) significantly impact the cash flow into El Mirage; and, 3) you can claim responsibility for an increase of unemployment within the community.

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