



James M. Cavanaugh
Mayor

August 28, 2009

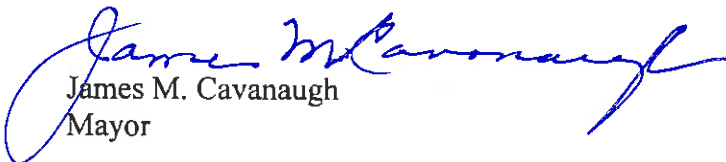
Dear Luke Air Force Base Supporters:

The citizens of Goodyear are committed to the preservation of Luke Air Force Base. This fact has been demonstrated many times but never more explicitly than in 2003 when this City obligated three and one-half million dollars to buy land that by zoning could have been developed by private interests and thereby encroach upon the mission of Luke. At the time of obligation, this amount of funding comprised approximately 10% of Goodyear's annual operating and maintenance budget. In brief, our people diverted a substantial part of the financial resources budgeted for city priorities to ensure the continuing effective accomplishment of the mission of Luke AFB. As a result of this magnanimous offering, this city became known as "The Protector of Luke's Southern Corridor." We were proud of that designation in 2003 and we remain proud today as we call Luke AFB and its devoted military and civilian members our neighbors.

With the Goldwater Range, Luke has been and remains an unparalleled site for combat training in fighter aircraft. Generations of joint service fighter aircraft have used this range for decades to achieve the highest levels of combat capability. This is not the time to change as we enter the era of the 5th generation fighters, F-22 and F-35. Goldwater Range and Luke AFB provide the ideal complement to achieve the best in fighter training.

It is understood that Luke is a prime candidate for beddown of a second F-35 fighter training site with Eglin already identified as the inaugural first site. Our citizens of Goodyear believe in a strong national defense and also believe that second to none air-to-air and air-to-ground combat capabilities are essential to the achievement of an unassailable defense posture. We believe the total Luke training package provides the best opportunity to retain our fighter combat advantage and therefore strongly support the selection of Luke AFB as the next F-35 fighter training base.

Sincerely,


James M. Cavanaugh
Mayor

Office of the Mayor
190 N. Litchfield Rd., Goodyear, AZ 85338
623-882-7776 · Fax 623-932-4249 · 1-800-872-1749 · TDD 623-932-6500 · www.goodyearaz.gov

