

Economic Development



PROTECTION OF LUKE AIR FORCE BASE

Subcommittee: Armed Services Committees Appropriations
Defense and Military Construction

Request: Protect the mission of Luke Air Force Base (AFB) by ensuring property owner participation and cooperation to acquire federal funds that support modernization and mission flexibility.

Advocate for follow-on missions at Luke AFB, pursue opportunities for joint missions and continue to support “managed growth” that complements Luke’s current and future mission capabilities.

Community Value:

With more than 7,000 employees and a financial impact of nearly \$2.2 billion annually, Luke AFB is key to the state of Arizona’s economic viability and the nation’s defense.

The city of Phoenix, partnering with West Valley cities and Maricopa County, continues to support investments that strengthen Luke AFB’s military value and capability for future missions. It is imperative to move forward with a comprehensive re-capitalization plan, innovative land-use compatibility efforts and quality-of-life initiatives to keep Luke AFB modernized and mission-ready.

The city is working with our partners to seek legislative, policy and funding options such as the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) program to manage growth around Luke AFB and the Auxiliary 1 Field. The city of Phoenix and the partners also will lobby for policy decisions and resource allocation by the Defense Department to make Luke AFB and Barry M. Goldwater Range the premiere United States training tandem for training on current and emerging military aircraft.



The city of Phoenix supports managed growth initiatives, such as the approval of the Luke AFB Special Air Traffic Rule by the Federal Aviation Administration to enhance air traffic management in the region and enable Luke AFB pilots to maneuver out of local air traffic patterns faster and to arrive at the Barry M. Goldwater Range for training.

Background:

Luke Air Force Base was established in 1941 on land donated to the federal government by the city and it has evolved in the decades since to a major economic force in the Phoenix region. As the U.S. Air Force’s largest fighter wing and the world’s largest active duty F-16 training base, Luke AFB plays a critical role in protecting America’s freedom and security. Luke AFB has immediate proximity to the Barry M. Goldwater Range and can boast perfect training weather conditions more than 95 percent of the year.

Current Initiatives:

Luke Air Force Base is currently the largest active duty F-16 training base in the world, and the Air Force is planning to begin replacing its fleet of F-16s with the new F-35 Lightning II within the next few years. Luke AFB is contending to be one of the key training sites for the F-35 – also referred to as the Joint Strike Fighter. In November 2009, Luke AFB was notified that it was among three active duty installations listed as candidates for the USAF training mission.

If awarded the F-35 training mission, Luke AFB can anticipate seeing an infusion of \$125-\$150 million in construction-related projects. Much of this investment will positively impact the state’s economy with local labor and suppliers of construction material. The new mission will generate additional employment and construction jobs, wages, consumer spending and investments throughout the West Valley and state.

A federal Environmental Impact Study (EIS) is proceeding as the next step in the formal consideration process, which could lead to selecting Luke AFB as a F-35 training site. Numerous public hearings are taking place for community input.

The F-35 training mission at Luke has overwhelming support from cities throughout the region, the Valley and the state. In addition, there is support from Arizona's entire congressional delegation, Governor Brewer and from many Valley business and community leaders. The message is clear: Arizona wants the F-35.



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