



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
ARIZONA COMMITTEE FOR THE EMPLOYER SUPPORT  
OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE



EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF  
THE GUARD & RESERVE

4085 N. Highway Drive  
Tucson, Arizona 85705  
(520) 887-5652 Fax (520) 887-8404  
Email: [valenzuelab@wgval.com](mailto:valenzuelab@wgval.com)

William G. Valenzuela  
Arizona Chairman Emeritus

February 1, 2010

Michael B. Donley  
Secretary of the U.S. Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20330-1670

General Norton A. Schwartz  
Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Donley and General Schwartz:

I write to you today as a long-standing businessman in Tucson, Arizona, to express my steadfast support for the mission of the 162<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing at Tucson International Airport and to convey all of the benefits our city has to offer the Air Force's newest aircraft, the F-35 Lightning II.

The Air Force's announcement last October that Tucson was one of five locations under consideration for F-35 training came as excellent news for our city's business community. I, along with a vast majority of business owners, fully support the basing of F-35 aircraft at Tucson Airport.

The advantages of pilot training in Tucson are many. Our consistent weather, our access to military training ranges and our existing military aviation infrastructure make our city a clear choice for F-35 training. In addition, the 162<sup>nd</sup> has 41 years of experience in pilot training and 21 years in international F-16 pilot training, making the unit specifically suited for F-35 training.

Equally important is the support of our business community for the continued role of the Arizona Air National Guard and its mission. The Guard has long served this community as a powerful economic force. The base's annual \$280 million economic impact on the local community is vital to our city's economic prosperity. In these challenging economic times, we recognize the importance of sustaining our largest economic generators for the long term.

As a veteran of the Korean War, as a former Marine, as State Chair Emeritus of Arizona's chapter of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, as a member of the 162<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee, as owner of W.G. Valenzuela Drywall, and as a native Tucsonan I have always supported our Airmen and wish to continue that tradition. I look forward to the base's future prosperity, and I wish to offer any assistance that the Air Force may need in this very important partnership with Tucson

Sincerely,

William G. Valenzuela