



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

December 3, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Donley:

Because I am dedicated to securing the long-term future of the 162nd Fighter Wing, Tucson Air National Guard Base, I urge the Department of Defense to select Tucson as a training site for the F-35 Lightning II- Joint Strike Fighter.

I know you are aware of the vital role the 162nd Fighter Wing serves. It is the "face of the USAF to the world," providing the best-trained coalition war-fighting partners for the United States Air Force. The wing has trained pilots from 24 countries while developing strategic partnerships and building strong international relationships based on performance, friendship and trust. They have over 40 years experience in fighter training, and more than 20 years experience in international military training.

Tucson's unique assets include its proximity to the 2.7 million acre Barry M. Goldwater Range, key to air-to-ground combat training, along with 57,000 cubic miles of airspace overhead where pilots practice air-to-air maneuvers and engage targets on the ground. Additionally, the 162nd Fighter Wing is responsible for several large Military Operating Areas providing significant airspace for both air-to-air and air-to-ground training. Frankly, no other area in the country can compare in size, scope and tactical training ability.

The 162nd Fighter Wing at Tucson International Airport, with its established training capability and modern infrastructure, provides the Department with a site that is extremely well-suited to support fifth-generation fighter tactics and training as required by the F-35. When you add Tucson's excellent weather, and extraordinary community support from civic organizations, I am confident you will determine there is no finer place to train U.S. and international pilots than the 162nd Fighter Wing.

Sincerely,

Janice K. Brewer
Governor