



Pima County Sheriff's Department

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Clarence W. Dupnik
Sheriff

Keeping the Peace and Serving the Community Since 1865

January 25, 2010

Honorable Robert Walkup
Mayor, City of Tucson
C/O 162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee
PO Box 22343
Tucson, Arizona 85734

Dear Mayor Walkup,

It is my pleasure to write in support of bringing the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter to the Arizona Air National Guard's 162nd Fighter Wing. The Arizona Air National Guard 162nd Fighter Wing has been a proud and loyal community partner for many years. The addition of the F-35 Lightning II would be of great benefit to the Fighter Wing and the Tucson area. Arizona is known for its desert climates which provide favorable conditions year-round for maximum flight time. Additionally, there are numerous training ranges in Tucson and around Southern Arizona that make this an optimal choice for the future of military aviation training.

Over the years, Tucson citizens have showed overwhelming support for the men and women who serve in the armed forces, including those involved in the Arizona Air National Guard. The F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft are well-known throughout the region and Tucsonans are proud of the long standing tradition of training those who serve their country so honorably.

The quality of men and women who seek employment in my department after serving in the Armed Services is so high that I am always eager to do what I can to support the efforts of the local military institutions. I believe that the addition of the F-35 Lightning II to the 162nd Fighter Wing will continue to solidify the presence of the Air National Guard in Tucson for many years to come.

I appreciate being given the opportunity to express my support for this addition to the longstanding military training tradition of which Tucson is so proud. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if there is more that I can do to support this endeavor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clarence W. Dupnik".

CLARENCE W. DUPNIK
Sheriff of Pima County

CWD/djc