

February 23, 2010

The Honorable Mayor Bob Walkup
Care of Tucson Lightning
162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee
P.O. Box 22343
Tucson, AZ 85734

Dear Mayor Walkup:

On behalf of Raytheon Missile Systems I strongly support the 162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee and their efforts to champion Southern Arizona and the Tucson International Airport as the future pilot training site for the next generation U.S. Air Force Fighter, the F-35.

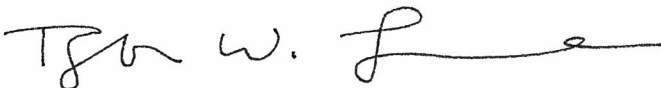
As a key supplier to the U.S. Air Force, we look forward to the addition of the F-35 to the Air Force inventory. The F-35 will carry many of the weapon systems we produce – such as the AIM-9X Sidewinder, the Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile and the Joint Standoff Weapon, all of which are produced in Tucson.

We have enjoyed a long partnership with the 162nd Fighter Wing, which is located next to our largest Tucson facility. We regularly engage in activities with the pilots who have flown with our products and who train NATO and other Coalition Air Force F-16 pilots. The addition of the F-35 will ensure the continuation of this partnership while at the same time confirming our commitment to maintaining the performance and protection of our armed forces.

From an economic standpoint the 162nd Fighter Wing's adds \$280 million to the local economy and employs about 1,450 Tucsonans. This positive impact cannot be overstated. The advantages of pilot training in Arizona, its consistent weather, its ranges and its existing military aviation infrastructure, are clear. If you combine all of this with the community support for the continued role of the Guard and its mission, supporting the F-35 just makes sense. This addition will guarantee the base's prosperity for years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for this very important and effective partnership.

Sincerely,



Dr. Taylor W. Lawrence