



January 15, 2010

The Honorable Mayor Bob Walkup  
Care of Tucson Lightning  
162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee  
PO Box 22343  
Tucson AZ 85734

Dear Mayor Walkup:

Vantage West Credit Union wholeheartedly supports the efforts of the 162<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee in its mission of championing Tucson International Airport as one of this nation's premier fighter pilot training installations and as a pilot training site for the next generation of the U. S. Air Force fighter F-35.

The Arizona Air National Guard has long served this nation as a pilot training center and this community as a powerful economic force. The base's \$280 million positive economic impact on the local community cannot be overstated. The advantages of pilot training in Arizona, its consistent weather, its ranges and its existing military aviation infrastructure, are clear. Equally important is the community support for the continued role of the Guard and its mission. We look forward to the base's future prosperity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input for this very important and effective partnership.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Ramirez  
President/CEO

/ljk