



## Bulletin from Mayor Elaine Scruggs

It is widely known that Luke Air Force Base is the U.S. Air Force's largest fighter wing and the only active duty F-16 training base in the world.



What may not be as commonly known is Luke's ranking as a key contributor to the state's economy with over 8,000 jobs and a financial impact of over \$2 billion annually. Luke is also one of Glendale's most valuable community partners with contributions of over 100,000 community volunteer hours annually. It goes without saying that we must do everything within our power to protect the current and future missions of Luke Air Force Base.

Glendale took a lead role in forming the West Valley Partners, a coalition of fourteen West Valley communities, including the city of Phoenix and Maricopa County. The West Valley's Partner sole purpose is to band together to protect the long-term viability of Luke's mission.

This time last year, the West Valley Partners established a contract with a federal lobbyist to ensure Luke Air Force Base's interests are represented and protected in Washington D.C. and at the State Legislature. My office is responsible for the oversight of the coalitions' strategic plan and serves as the liaison to the consultant firm - Hyjek & Fix, LLC.

During the week of September 17, Hyjek and Fix organized a very important trip to Washington D.C. for elected officials and staff from the West Valley Partners. Throughout the week, we met with congressional members and high ranking Pentagon officials including Senator Jon Kyl, General Michael Mosley, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff, and former Luke Commander Lt General Howie Chandler, who will soon become the Commander of Pacific Air Forces.

During each meeting, we were able to discuss Luke's capability and flexibility for current and future missions. Through our conversations, we remain optimistic that Luke will be considered for a future mission as the second training base for the F-35 Lightning. We also received very positive feedback on our Managed Growth initiatives created to prevent land and air space encroachment around the Base.

Visiting with our congressional delegation and Pentagon officials remains one of the most effective ways to keep the protection of Luke's mission at the forefront of all who are in control of its destiny. You can also help by contacting Arizona's congressional delegation and letting them know Luke AFB is important to our national security and to you as a Glendale resident.

*Thank you taking the time to read my "Glendale Bulletins". Please contact me at (623) 930-2260 or [mayorscruggs@glendaleaz.com](mailto:mayorscruggs@glendaleaz.com), if you have any comments or questions. I strive to provide the most timely information and best possible service to you, the citizens of Glendale. I sincerely appreciate your feedback.*