

1 future cannot be understated. This active base supports
2 tens of thousands of jobs related to the operations of
3 Luke. The direct and indirect economic impact of this
4 base is measured in billions. I hear people debating how
5 much, but it's measured in billions of dollars per year to
6 the state's economy.

7 This new mission will ensure that Arizona's
8 aerospace and defense sectors stay strong as economic
9 drivers of our economy and enhance our ability to continue
10 to attract new companies and people to the area. I've
11 experienced firsthand the base Relocation and Closure Act
12 and the impacts from it. Many of you may have heard of
13 Williams Air Force Base that used to exist in our
14 southeast valley. Some of you probably trained there. I
15 was early in my career when they closed it. And today
16 we're developing a community next to it that's now called
17 Phoenix Mesa Gateway Airport, and we've had about a
18 30-year hiatus of economic impact from the closure of
19 Williams Air Force Base.

GE-3

20 I urge you to support the F-35. We urge the
21 record a decision to support Luke Air Force Base and our
22 recommendation of Luke as the future home of the F-35
23 training mission. In fact, the sooner the better.

GE-3

24 Thank you.

25 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Mr. Ron Sites, Fighter

1 Country Partnership. Mr. Sites. The floor is yours.

2 MR. RON SITES: For the record, my name is Ron
3 Sites, S-i, t like Tom, e-s. And I am the president and
4 executive director of Fighter Country Partnership.

3064 LU

5 Fighter Country Partnership is the leading
6 support and advocacy organization for Luke Air Force Base.
7 We are humbled and privileged every day to support the men
8 and women, families and mission of Luke Air Force Base.

9 We support the base in three core areas: Health
10 and human services, assisting in quality of life; Luke Air
11 Force Base events and awards programs, assisting in
12 maintaining that tradition and culture of Luke Air Force
13 Base; and then advocating on behalf of Luke Air Force
14 Base.

15 Our areas of emphasis are in that order
16 respectively as well. While our advocating efforts have
17 assisted in the submission of almost nearly 9,000
18 electronic support postcards in support of the F-35
19 mission at Luke, the largest core of our business is
20 supporting programs and services at Luke that assist in a
21 high quality of life that Luke airmen enjoy during their
22 time here.

23 We accomplish our mission through the incredible
24 support we receive from Arizona business, civic leaders
25 and organizations, tribal nations and the local

1 municipalities because they truly understand the value of
 2 supporting this unique military installation. Besides the
 3 fact that Luke Air Force Base provides the best
 4 environment to accomplish their critical mission of
 5 training the world's greatest fighter pilots and
 6 maintainers for the Air Force and a special thanks goes
 7 out to all our elected officials now and past who have put
 8 that legislation in place to protect that environment, the
 9 airmen at Luke enjoy a quality of life that is the second
 10 to none.

11 While that statement might sound biased, that is
 12 the feedback we consistently hear from the airmen. It is
 13 also a deciding factor why they often choose to retire in
 14 our communities. Fighter Country Partnership has been
 15 recognized by the Air Force and AETC for the support we
 16 provide. And the best way for us to continue our
 17 privileged responsibility is for the Air Force to select
 18 Luke Air Force Base as the next location to bed down the
 19 training mission of the F-35.

GE-3

20 So on behalf of Fighter Country Partnership and
 21 all of those who support us, we thank you for the time and
 22 opportunity to make these valuable statements in support
 23 of Luke Air Force Base. And I know no one here doubts my
 24 passion in supporting Luke, but in the mail today was my
 25 own personalized Arizona Freedom, Support Luke license

1 plate.

2 COL. GREGORY: You know, the license plate has to
 3 become part of the record now.

4 Ms. Kathy Franz. Kathy Franz. The floor is
 5 yours.

3065 LU

6 MS. KATHY FRANZ: Name is Kathy Franz, F-r-a-n-z.
 7 I lived in California for many years, and I lived next to
 8 El Toro Marine base and March Air Force Base. When my
 9 mother got ill, I had to leave the state because it was
 10 too expensive. And so I called my brother here in
 11 Scottsdale, and I said, "Please find me a home near Luke
 12 Air Force Base."

13 I feel so safe and secure living next to the
 14 base. And I want to, first of all, thank all of you
 15 active and retired servicemen and women. I thank God for
 16 you every night in my prayers. I'm from the Vietnam era,
 17 and I lost many friends. And I know the heartache that
 18 goes to the family members. And I also know how much the
 19 service people really appreciate all of us that stand up
 20 for them.

21 As far as the noise, every time a plane goes over
 22 my home, I look up and I say, "Thank you for the sound of
 23 freedom." And as far as the noise also, my neighbors'
 24 kids and their loud car stereos and the noise coming from
 25 their homes is much louder than these planes flying over

1 us. I am in 100 percent for Luke Air Force Base, and God] GE-3
2 bless every one of you who are.

3 Thank you.

4 COL. GREGORY: Thank you, ma'am. Barbara
5 Anderson. Ms. Anderson. Okay. Put this one aside.

6 Condi Edmonds. The floor is yours. 3066 LU

7 MS. CONDI EDMONDS: My name is Condi Edmonds,
8 E-d-m-o-n-d-s. When my husband and I moved to the West
9 Valley in 2002, we were well aware of the presence of Luke
10 Air Force Base. We were given a document to sign
11 acknowledging the fact that we were close to Luke Air
12 Force Base and that there would be noise from the jets as
13 were all of the prospective buyers of new homes in the
14 area. We embraced the opportunity to live near a military
15 community.

16 My husband, a former military liaison specialist
17 with the FAA, welcomed the chance to see the aircraft he
18 dearly loves in action. I don't understand the objections
19 to the F-35. Luke Air Force Base is the perfect setting
20 for pilot training. The Phoenix area has the best climate
21 of all the proposed locations. And the West Valley has
22 the infrastructure to support both the military and
23 civilian personnel. GE-3

24 If the residents of this area feel that the
25 housing market is depressed now, imagine what it would be

1 like if we lose Luke as a training base. Home values will
2 take a horrific nose dive, and military families would
3 lose a great deal of money when they are transferred
4 elsewhere. Civilian employees at Luke would lose their
5 jobs, and many businesses in the surrounding area would
6 see dramatically reduced revenues possibly forcing some to
7 close. GE-3
cont'd

8 The men and women of Luke Air Force are training
9 the future defenders of our freedom. We need to remember
10 that our freedom isn't free and it isn't quiet.

11 COL. GREGORY: Chandra Eden.

12 MS. CHANDRA EDEN: My tap dancing lessons are 3067 LU
13 going to be off for a bit.

14 COL. GREGORY: I wish I could bring the mic over
15 to you, but it's tied to this pole.

16 MS. CHANDRA EDEN: I need to get the swelling
17 down anyway. When I get done here, I'm going to go get an
18 x-ray to see how bad it is broken. Apparently when you
19 run on the edge of the sidewalk, it doesn't work.

20 COL. GREGORY: Better watch that cord.

21 MS. CHANDRA EDEN: Just a tip for you.

22 Okay. My name is Chandra Eden. I was at the
23 first meeting that they had over at the -- it was in 2010.
24 I set directly in front of one of the speakers, and it was
25 loud. But my ears didn't pop. They didn't ring. And

1 that was me sitting close as this front row. I have
2 airplanes going across my house at least five times a day.
3 I love it. My dog lays there. And when they comes by,
4 she rolls over on her back and she kicks her feet in the
5 air. I think she's waving. I don't know.

6 But I don't see any problem with having Luke Air
7 Force Base here. I see a problem with us turning the
8 F-35s down. There is probably 4,000 families around Luke
9 Air Force Base. On my street alone, there are two people
10 that work at Luke Air Force Base.

11 And to get off on a bad subject, Bank of F-ing
12 America has got me at 52 percent. What happens if I had
13 to sell and all of those houses were vacant? So I'm all
14 for Luke Air Force Base 100,000 percent.

GE-3

15 Thank you.

16 COL. GREGORY: Ray Suznowski. Mr. Suznowski.
17 Hope I got that right. Ray Suznowski.

18 Everett Pincolini.

3068 LU

19 MR. EVERETT PINCOLINI: For the record, Everett
20 Pincolini, P-i-n-c-o-l-i-n-i. I feel like I'm in a
21 spelling bee.

22 I am a licensed real estate agent in the state of
23 Arizona, and I want to address the issue on noise. Like
24 one speaker before talked about concerning new home sales,
25 just like that on the same procedures for resales, so the

1 state of Arizona has very specific laws about disclosure.
2 And whenever anybody buys any property in the western
3 region, the disclosure of Luke Air Force Base has to be
4 documented by the seller and by the buyer.

5 It is the buyer's responsibility to research
6 whether they want to buy or not. And there are lots of
7 resources available to the buyer to do that research with.
8 So the buyer could go to the federal government for
9 information, the state for information, or the county for
10 information.

11 So there should be absolutely no reason why the
12 buyer is not aware of the fact that the Air Force Base is
13 here and that it does produce a certain amount of noise.
14 So I just want to point that out that it is a state law on
15 disclosure concerning it.

16 And I just want to finish by saying I fully
17 support basing of the F-35 here at Luke.

GE-3

18 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Janis Richardson.
19 Janis Richardson. The floor is yours.

3069 LU

20 MS. JANIS RICHARDSON: Thank you. My name is
21 Janis Richardson, R-i-c-h-a-r-d-s-o-n. And I just want to
22 make some comments. Senators McCain and Kyle are both for
23 the F-35, so I don't doubt that we'll receive it. But I
24 want to just make some comments on the descent of these
25 planes. I understand that the takeoff will be less noise,

SO-32

1 but the descent will be louder.

2 And I want to talk about people that live in zone
3 11 which is -- which are in the descent path. I came here
4 tonight because the news stated that there would be
5 representatives here to talk about people that lived in
6 certain areas and retrofitting those people in those
7 areas. I have lived in the descent area since 1999.

SO-32
cont'd

8 And I point this out because I want to talk about
9 the children, especially the children that attend
10 Riverview Elementary School on Main and Marina. The
11 planes come right across. You can almost tell when
12 they're in training because you can see the bellies of the
13 planes going over.

14 In 2002, I started getting loud noises without
15 any reason in my ears. It didn't make a difference where
16 I was. I would just get these screaming siren sounds. It
17 lasted for a couple years. I saw many medical people, and
18 now I just have a constant hum that I live with.

19 However, the children in this area that live in
20 this area, I think their homes should be retrofitted
21 because they're our future for tomorrow. And if we just
22 bring this in without doing anything for the communities
23 in the direct path of descent, then you're harming people
24 that can't speak for themselves.

SO-32

25 Thank you.

1 COL. GREGORY: Thank you, ma'am. Mr. Jeff
2 Taubman. Mr. Taubman. The floor is yours.

3070 LU

3 MR. JEFF TAUBMAN: For the record, my name is
4 Jeff Taubman, T-a-u-b-m-a-n. And my wife and I are both
5 in favor of the F-35 being based here at Luke. We moved
6 from California. And it's a simple story, simple people.
7 And we still have jobs. And the economy falling a lot of
8 different places, especially with the water.

GE-3

9 When environmentalists found a smelt that they
10 wanted to protect, which is a four-inch fish that came
11 through the delta. And the delta is in the middle of the
12 state near Sacramento. And they wouldn't release the
13 water into the farm land through Highway 99, and it
14 affected a million families.

15 My wife and I are both very patriotic, and we
16 want that training base here.

GE-3

17 Thank you.

18 COL. GREGORY: Mr. Jerry Bick. Mr. Bick, our
19 World War II bomber engineer.

3071 LU

20 MR. JERRY BICK: Jerry Bick, B-i-c-k, World War
21 II Army Air Corps, flew 15s, 24s, and 29s and trained
22 copilots and aerial engineers.

23 My point is I'm a property owner here, and I
24 wanted to bring out a point. I've been in the fire
25 service since then, 51 years, and there's been no

NO-9

1 comparison between the sound levels and something that you
2 might be familiar with, and that is the smoke detector in
3 your house. The smoke detector in your house is designed
4 to go off around 83 decibels, which is much higher than
5 the presentation that you saw.

6 The reason it's supposed to go off at that level
7 is because it's to irritate you, to wake you up and tell
8 you to get up off of your whatever you're on and get out
9 of the house.

10 And so as a comparison between the 60 decibels
11 sound level of the airplane going over and your smoke
12 detector, I don't think there's any problem at all with
13 the sound level. We also have been covering the weather.
14 When I was flying, we looked for weather. And thank God
15 for the weather we have here that lets these guys do their
16 flying in safety for them also.

17 Thank you.

18 COL. GREGORY: Chris Andres, City of Phoenix.

3072 LU

19 MR. CHRIS ANDRES: Thank you, Col. Gregory. My
20 name is Chris Andres. For the record, A, as in Arizona,
21 n-d-r-e-s. I'm the deputy aviation director for planning
22 for the City of Phoenix Aviation Department.

23 And I'm speaking on behalf of City of Phoenix
24 Councilwoman Thelda Williams who sends her apologies she
25 could not be here this evening but asked me to speak on

NO-9
cont'd

1 her behalf. So on behalf of the City of Phoenix
2 Councilwoman Thelda Williams and the City of Phoenix
3 Aviation Department, we are in strong support of Luke Air
4 Force Base as the preferred site for the F-35A training
5 program.

GE-3

6 Luke Air Force Base and Phoenix Sky Harbor
7 International Airport are the two largest users of the
8 airspace in central Arizona. We have an excellent
9 relationship with the base, and Luke is one of our
10 strongest partners to address the joint needs of civilian
11 and military aviation.

12 We support their mission as a critical training
13 facility for the Air Force and the F-35 program. And the
14 City of Phoenix is committed to Luke's long-term
15 viability. As part of this commitment to Luke, Phoenix
16 has purchased property near the base to protect it from
17 encroachment so we can continue to serve the needs of our
18 national defense system.

GE-3

19 Thank you.

20 COL. GREGORY: Niels Roberts of Pueblo El Mirage.

3073 LU

21 MR. NIELS ROBERTS: Hi, everybody. My name's
22 Neils Roberts, N-i-e-l-s Roberts. I represent Pueblo El
23 Mirage. We bought Pueblo El Mirage 1989, and Luke Air
24 Force Base was present and those jets were flying. My
25 concern is that my property is right now at the north part

1 towards -- of the contour of where the loudest noise is
2 going to be. My residents are going to feel the loudest
3 noise out of everybody here, and I want to stress that
4 fact and go on record.

5 And my concerns are right now we're talking about
6 a noise that has only been calculated, you know, through
7 computers or animation. We don't have an exact -- no
8 one's flown an F-35 here yet to know actually how loud it
9 really will be. And so my concerns are we're talking
10 about maybe bringing -- flying every single year 75,972 of
11 these baseline projected annual airfield operations of the
12 F-35. And my concern is one percent of that will be at
13 nighttime.

14 And as the gentleman said, the fire alarm,
15 imagine after 10:00 o'clock at night hearing, you know,
16 750 nighttimes in a year that fire alarm going off every
17 single night waking you up. That's not going to make you
18 a very happy resident, and that is my concern for my
19 residents because we are the most affected.

20 I have 3,000 residents I have to speak for that I
21 am concerned about that will not, you know, be able to
22 have the rest and peace that they want to have because of
23 the F-35. And so my concerns are, you know, I just want
24 to know who will clarify my concerns.

25 So -- and then I want to know who's going to help

NO-7

NO-3

SO-11

1 me when my park residents -- you know, I've got 1500
2 spaces. And all of a sudden, this F-35 comes through and
3 it's really so loud that all my residents want to move
4 out. And who's going to help me when all the residents
5 move out? And this has been a driving force for
6 supporting tax for El Mirage for multiple years. And
7 after all my residents leave, who's going to help me?

8 Thank you very much.

9 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Kay Nelson.

10 MS. MARY KAY NELSON: Hello. My name is Mary Kay
11 Nelson. My company is Bilingual Services, LLC. I've
12 lived in Arizona for 33 years, most of it in Phoenix and
13 half of it about in Tucson. I went to U of A, got a
14 master's degree in vocational rehabilitation counseling,
15 working with veterans, helping them to get jobs when they
16 have disabilities, or we call them different abilities.
17 We don't call it handicapped. We call it, you know,
18 needing assistive devices -- there's a lot of jargon that
19 goes in that field -- and helped to keep them with their
20 dignity and in the jobs.

21 And I'm wondering about the impact of this
22 whether or not we would have more contractors. For the
23 record, I'd like to know about whether they've addressed
24 the need for contractors and other kinds of employment,
25 civilian-related.

SO-11
cont'd

3074 LU

SO-21

1 And also I would like to know about the cultural
 2 impact of this study, whether it addressed the need in the
 3 corridor known as the Highway 8 narcotraffickers highway
 4 with the drug problem and whether or not there's been a
 5 study on the cultural effect that this might bring to have
 6 our base located here whether or not we could address some
 7 of our more difficult threats, the border issues.

GE-13

8 And the third thing I wanted to mention is that
 9 I've been involved with the Republican Party for 20 years
 10 helping fund raise and have been to many lectures on
 11 electromagnetic issues that may occur. And I wondered if
 12 that was included in the environmental study, because I
 13 haven't read the environmental study. And I just wanted
 14 to go on the record that maybe having the base would help
 15 us with that threat.

GE-13

16 And I own my own pair of professional earplugs,
 17 those kinds that look like headsets. And I suggest that
 18 anybody that has issues might buy a pair of those. You
 19 could sleep with them. And that's about all I have.

20 COL. GREGORY: Thank you, ma'am. Carlisle
 21 Rossow. Hope I got that right.

22 MR. CARLISLE ROSSOW: Close enough.

23 COL. GREGORY: Okay. The floor is yours.

24 MR. CARLISLE ROSSOW: My name is Carlisle Rossow,
 25 R-o-s-s-o-w. I just want to go on record that I'm totally

3075 LU

GE-3

1 100 percent behind the F-35 being based at Luke Air Force
 2 Base. My father was stationed at Luke Air Force Base for
 3 23 years, and this is a great Air Force we have in the
 4 United States. And I -- see this band right here,
 5 (indicating)? I've got skin in the game. My son served
 6 for the United States Air Force. He's a TACP. I want him
 7 to have the F-35 backing his butt when he's on the ground.

GE-3
cont'd

8 As for noise, there's one thing I know about this
 9 country; no country in the world takes care of its
 10 environment better than the United States. We do it
 11 better than the rest of the world. We lead the world.
 12 And it's time that we can show them that we can lead the
 13 world when we have 35. I'm sure it's going to be just
 14 fine. And I love what that lady said, "sound of freedom."
 15 I hear it. I live in Peoria.

16 And I can't wait for the F-35 to get here. I
 17 just don't know what's taking so stinking long. So
 18 anyway, I thank you very much for your time.

19 Thank you to all the active duty and retired
 20 military people. Thank you very, very much for your
 21 service in World War II.

22 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Eric Cultum, City of
 23 Surprise Quality of Life Commissioner.

3076 LU

24 MR. ERIC CULTUM: Good evening. I'm Eric Cultum.
 25 Last name C-u-l-t-u-m. Tonight I'm here speaking as an

1 individual but also one who is involved very deeply in the
2 Northwest Valley. I'm a resident of Surprise and serve
3 the citizens of the Northwest Valley in a variety of
4 capacities.

5 As was mentioned in the introduction, I sit on
6 the Quality of Life Commission as a commissioner for City
7 of Surprise looking out for sustainability and quality of
8 life issues in a city of 117,000 residents. As one of
9 them that have been given the privilege of serving and
10 representing large groups of people, I think viability,
11 sustainability of the northwest region is a key component
12 of testimony for a variety of people that are here
13 tonight.

14 In addition, I serve as board secretary of
15 homeowners association Rancho Gabriella in south central
16 Surprise. Not speaking on behalf of any of these groups
17 tonight. I'm speaking on behalf of myself.

18 Finally, as a District 3 resident of City of
19 Surprise, a group of people involving 75,000 different
20 residents in our large city, I'm active and involved as a
21 citizen advocate, also serving on the 2011 redistricting
22 committee in the City of Surprise, an annual event every
23 ten years for making sure that representation of citizens'
24 voices and issues and concerns are balanced by local
25 resident and representation.

1 I think your attendance tonight here is fabulous.
2 I appreciate seeing a large group of people that are here
3 to speak out in support of this F-35 program. I will say
4 that as a public educator of over 20 years that I've grown
5 to know many who will serve in the military. And the
6 reason that I tend to appreciate them very much is as a
7 public servant. I can understand their life and the
8 necessary need to move around and to serve the needs of
9 the greater cause and the mission.

10 As a son of my father, he was a military man, and
11 I value and appreciate the culture and the community that
12 comes with each and every resident of military bases, not
13 just here locally at Luke, but all over our country and
14 internationally around our country and appreciate very
15 much how our military representatives are a key component
16 in our communities and our neighborhoods, our friends and
17 as our neighbors, and attend and serve in various
18 organizations in our region.

19 I grew up in Seattle, Washington. And Seattle,
20 Washington, is a location that is hugely filled with U.S.
21 military infrastructures. I can't imagine if an
22 opportunity, whether it's Air Force or submarines or the
23 variety of military groups that are there, if there ever
24 came an opportunity where they considered pursuing an F-35
25 option for training anywhere other than where there's

1 infrastructure support, incredible resources that are
2 already invested, already there, I can't imagine if an
3 F-35 training program were offered elsewhere away from an
4 environment like Luke Air Force Base.

5 So I want to conclude this evening to say that I
6 support the F-35 training program here at Luke Air Force
7 Base because taking it anywhere else that doesn't have the
8 infrastructural and existing supports that Luke provides
9 would be pure foolish. It'd be like asking -- taking
10 military installations away from the greater Seattle,
11 Washington area where they have incredible,
12 already-in-place infrastructure and taking it somewhere
13 else that would be keenly not supported as much as what
14 Luke could offer that.

15 And finally, again, I'm a proud son of a military
16 man. And if there's anybody that is here tonight that is
17 past, current or even little children that are future
18 representatives of our military installations, I'd like
19 you to stand because I think we need to applaud you and
20 thank you for your service.

21 So thank you very much. I appreciate hearing the
22 opportunity tonight and congratulations for your service.
23 Thank you very much. Thank you for the opportunity too.

24 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Ron Aames, vice mayor
25 of Peoria. The floor is yours.

1 MR. RON AAMES: Yes, I'm Ron Aames. That's
2 A-a-m-e-s, and I am the vice mayor of Peoria at this time,
3 also a council member for one of the districts. And I've
4 got to tell you everyone on the council is very supportive
5 of Luke Air Force Base getting the F-35. And we heard a
6 lot of good reasons. It's already in place. Facilities
7 are there. The weather is perfect for this. They're
8 already doing the F-16 training. This is the next
9 generation. It's an easy transition.

10 You know, it looks like a slam dunk, but we've
11 got to wait until the very end. It's perfect. We're all
12 patriotic here, and we love our Air Force men and women
13 that we need. They interact with us in Peoria in terms of
14 various activities. We interact with them. It's a great
15 organization. It's a great part of the community. And we
16 want to see it continue. Don't wait. Yes.

17 Thank you.

18 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Larry Templeton of
19 Surprise. Mr. Templeton. The floor is yours.

20 MR. LARRY TEMPLETON: Thank you. I'm Larry
21 Templeton. Larry, L-a-r-r-y T-e-m-p-l-e-t-o-n. I am
22 speaking, of course, in behalf of myself. However, I do
23 live in Surprise. I live basically in Sun City Grand.
24 But I chose that place partly because the Air Force was
25 there. I came down and looked at the area for years, and

1 then I bought a place. Actually had it built.

2 I really love having the airplanes there. I'm a
3 supporter 101 percent. I really like having aviation in
4 the area. For me, it was part of the advantage of coming
5 there. I did work for seven years at 98th and Bell, and
6 that happens to be on the landing path for the aircraft
7 coming in from Peoria direction toward Luke. That was no
8 problem either.

9 I think that we have probably -- well, I'm sure
10 we have the best Air Force in the world. We have the best
11 place to train it, and we have to have training. Training
12 is the reason why they're the best. And so we need to
13 have them trained in the best place and continue the good
14 job they're doing. And I believe that they're going to be
15 an economic asset. I know they're good neighbors because
16 I've seen them in many shops and stores around us. So
17 keep them here.

GE-3

18 Thank you.

19 COL. GREGORY: Dan Reilly of several organization
20 including the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans
21 of Foreign Wars.

3079 LU

22 MR. DAN REILLY: Good evening, Colonel.

23 COL. GREGORY: Good evening to you. The floor is
24 yours.

25 MR. DAN REILLY: Thank you. My name is Dan

1 Reilly. My spelling of my last name is R-e-i-l-l-y.

2 Sir and ladies and gentlemen, I'm a veteran. I
3 never retired from the Air Force. And as a resident of El
4 Mirage, I want to say thank you very much to the base.
5 And I do support the 35, excuse me, and a lot of my
6 veterans do, too, and a lot of organizations I belong to.
7 Thank you very much, Colonel.

GE-3

8 COL. GREGORY: Thank you. Michelle Palladino of
9 El Mirage. Okay. The floor is yours.

3080 LU

10 MS. MICHELLE PALLADINO: Thank you. Good
11 evening. My name is Michelle Palladino,
12 P-a-l-l-a-d-i-n-o. I am a board member of the People of
13 El Mirage. We originally formed in 2009 in support of
14 Luke. And because of that support, we now have the
15 fabulous mayor and council that is now in session.

16 The reason I'm standing here is because I got a
17 little upset when I heard Mr. Roberts' statement that he
18 was speaking for all the residents of the Pueblo El
19 Mirage. I am a member of -- I live in Pueblo and a lot of
20 our board members do. And we are in support of the F-35.
21 We are not moving when it comes.

GE-3

22 Thank you.

23 COL. GREGORY: Thank you, ma'am. Let me recall
24 the two folks who did not respond earlier. Barbara
25 Anderson. Barbara Anderson. Ray Suznowski.

1 Okay. Is there anyone who wanted to speak who
2 did not fill out a card but has decided you'd like to do
3 so right now? All right. We have plenty of time left.

4 As I mentioned earlier, Ms. Cleary and I are
5 going to remain at the table. If you do decide to make a
6 statement, we'll be here until 8:00 o'clock. Just come
7 up. Let me know that you've decided to make a statement
8 on the record, and we'll turn the machine on and record
9 your statement.

10 Before I recess the hearing, let me ask: Is
11 there anyone who already spoke who wanted an additional
12 three minutes to add to your remarks? Anyone? Again, to
13 change your mind on that, all you have to do is come up to
14 the table and let me know.

15 MS. KATHY FRANZ: Kathy Franz, F-r-a-n-z. I 3065 LU
16 personally and all of my neighbors signed the waiver when
17 we bought our home. And the lady that was talking about
18 the school and the childrens' noise and the ringing in her
19 ears, I wonder how many concerts she went to and how loud
20 she listened to the music when she was a teenager. I have
21 ringing in my ears, as many other people do. There's
22 noise everywhere.

23 And our schools are built to protect our
24 children. I don't know what she's talking about. I would
25 like her to have some form of representation showing it is

1 harming these children in the classrooms because these
2 schools are quiet.

3 Thank you.

4 COL. GREGORY: All right. Thank you. Was there
5 anyone else who wanted to add to their remarks at this
6 time?

7 Well, as I mentioned earlier, the Air Force
8 representatives will continue to be available in the room
9 next door by the posters to continue discussing things
10 with you. And Ms. Cleary and I will remain here at this
11 table until 8:00 p.m. to record any statements if you
12 decide later that you'd like to make a statement here
13 tonight.

14 I want to thank you for your time and interest in
15 the F-35A Training Basing EIS proposal. And tonight is,
16 again, not the end of your opportunity to participate in
17 this process. Comment sheets are available at the
18 registration table. You can turn these sheets in tonight
19 or mail or fax them later. The mailing address and fax
20 number are on the sheets.

21 The Air Force welcomes public comments in writing
22 at any time during the environmental impact analysis
23 process. And let me foot stomp this for you: To receive
24 timely consideration for the final EIS, please have those
25 comments submitted by March the 14th, 2012. March the

1 14th, 2012.

2 And with that, I'm going to recess the hearing.

3 And Ms. Cleary and I will remain here at the table until
4 8:00 if you decide you'd like to make a statement on the
5 record tonight. Thank you.

6 (Hearing adjourned and the following comments
7 were made outside the presence of the
8 hearing officer.)

9
10 PUBLIC COMMENTS

11 MR. DON THOMPSON: My name is Don Thompson, 3081 LU
12 T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n. And I'm not a candidate for or running
13 for re-election, so I'm going to avoid much in the way of
14 personal history.

15 But I came to speak in response to the EIS. And
16 I think that the EIS adequately covers all of the concerns
17 that people have voiced beforehand, specifically noise and
18 other environment impact. It sounds to me like the
19 adoption of the base as an F-35 training base will
20 actually improve the noise profile in the community, so
21 I'm a little bit, I guess, at a loss as to explain why
22 everybody keeps harping on the noise issue. Everything I
23 see in the EIS document that was given to me when I
24 arrived here tonight shows that everything seems to either
25 remain the same or improve. So personally I'm pro F-35.

GE-3

1 So that's my statement.

2 MR. MARK BURSHEIM: Mark B-u-r-s-h-e-i-m. Just 3082 LU
3 want to make a statement. For one, I was representing
4 myself, my family, and a resident of the City of El
5 Mirage. I do like the idea of the base staying in
6 operation, and I do like some of the scenarios that are
7 there.

8 My concerns are the L3 preferred status at this
9 point, actually, would be great because it would be less
10 flights per day. But the likelihood of this upper
11 scenario is bringing in more flights per day, and I'd like
12 to know more about how that's going to be addressed and
13 how that decision is made.

14 My second concern being, of course, the noise
15 levels which are obvious and can have impact to my family
16 long term. There is notice here about the attenuation
17 measures that could be applied. I'd like to know more
18 about how those measures are available or made available
19 to the citizens and to have those implemented if they are
20 needed to be addressed.

SO-32

21 Thank you.

22

23 (Public Hearing and Oral comments concluded.)

24

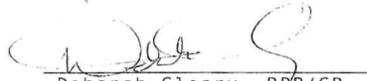
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D.8.6 Transcript from the Luke Air Force Base Public Hearing Held February 15, 2012, in Sun City, Arizona

1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA) ss.

3 I DEBORAH CLEARY, do hereby certify that the
4 foregoing Transcript of Proceedings constitute a true and
5 accurate transcript of the proceedings had in the
6 foregoing matter, all done to the best of my skill and
7 ability.

8 DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 2nd day of
9 March, 2012.

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16 
17 Deborah Cleary, RPR/CR
18 Certified Reporter
19 Certificate No. 50663
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U.S. AIR FORCE PUBLIC HEARING

Held Before Hearing Officer

COLONEL RONALD GREGORY

Sun City, Arizona

February 15, 2012

Open House Information Session
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Presentation/Formal Comment Session
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Prepared by:
LESLIE ANDRES, CR, RPR
Certificate No. 50833

1 like another three minutes to expand on your comments.

2 If you want to do that, just let me know at
3 that time, and we'll put another three minutes back on the
4 clock for you. Again, Ms. Andres and I will remain here
5 at the table to take your statement until 8:00 if you
6 decide you want to comment after we recess the hearing.

7 If you want to add something later to your
8 oral comments, or if you would rather not speak here
9 tonight, you can submit written comments at any time up to
10 March the 14th, 2012. And I understand they use the
11 mailbox rule on that, as long as they're postmarked on
12 that day it's on time.

13 There's no page limit on written comments,
14 and the air force gives equal weight to oral and written
15 comments. Both become part of the official record, and
16 are included in the Final EIS.

17 Just a few reminders before we get started.
18 First, please limit your comments to the Draft EIS that is
19 the purpose of this public comment period. Second, if you
20 agree with the previous speaker on something, you can
21 certainly say that, but you don't need to use up your time
22 repeating it, since it's already in the record.

23 Finally, as I mentioned earlier, this isn't
24 a Q and A session. It's an opportunity for you to put on
25 the record your views and your concerns about the proposal

1 that you want the decision makers to consider. Questions
2 that you pose during your comments will become part of the
3 record and will be considered.

4 After we're done with the formal part of
5 this, the air force representatives will continue to be
6 available by those various boards back there to discuss
7 things with you.

8 And with that, I'll call our first speaker,
9 Representative Debbie Lesko.

10 MS. LESKO: Good evening. My name is State
11 Representative Debbie Lesko, and for the record, that's
12 L-e-s-k-o. I'm also the house majority whip in the
13 Arizona legislature. I represent the people in parts of
14 Peoria, Glendale, Sun City, and Youngtown.

15 And I want to just quickly say how proud I
16 am that the people in my district show up in such force
17 here at this meeting. Thank you.

18 I want to say that I personally support the
19 F-35 mission here at Luke Air Force Base. And also, I
20 have heard from a large number of constituents, the
21 majority of which also support the F-35 mission at Luke
22 Air Force base. We believe that it is valuable for the
23 long-term sustainability of Luke Air Force Base, and for
24 the economy, of not only the west valley, but the entire
25 state.

3083 LU

GE-3

1 And because of that support, I plan to
2 introduce a resolution in the legislature in both the
3 House and Senate showing our legislative support, and that
4 will pass soon. Thank you.

5 COLONEL GREGORY: Mr. Max Wilson.

3084 LU

6 MR. WILSON: I won't let him call me back
7 for a third time.

8 My comment, I guess I want people to
9 remember what it was like on 9-11. I want people to
10 remember what the air force did that night. I want you to
11 remember that at our house we invited all the kids over
12 and the grandkids over. And when things seemed kind of
13 peaceful, we had them go home.

14 As they were walking out the door they heard
15 another airplane going. And they came running in and said
16 "Grandpa, grandpa, there's an airplane up there." And we
17 all walked out, and I explained to them about the United
18 States Air Force. And we talked about Luke Air Force
19 Base, and we talked about the good guys and the bad guys.

20 And they never forgot that, and I'll never
21 forget that. And Luke Air Force Base will always be in my
22 heart. Thank you very much for your support.

GE-3

23 COLONEL GREGORY: Mayor Bob Barrett of
24 Peoria.

25 MR. BARRETT: Good evening. I'm Bob

3085 LU

1 Barrett, I'm mayor of Peoria, that's B-a-r-r-e-t-t, for
2 the record.

3 Thank you all for coming out to show your
4 support for the F-35. The city of Peoria has been
5 supportive of the F-35 since the process began. I have
6 twice gone back to Washington D.C. to meet with the
7 Secretary of the Air Force, the second time to meet with
8 the Deputy Secretary of the Air Force in charge of
9 installations, who pushed the idea that we want this
10 fighter here.

GE-3

11 It is critical. It's critical to all our
12 survival.

13 And on a personal note, in terms of
14 transparency, I first came to Luke in 1962. It was my
15 father's last duty station, so I have long ties with Luke
16 Air Force Base. And they are great ties to have. That is
17 an installation that must continue. If it doesn't, it
18 will be economically devastating to the west valley if we
19 lose the F-35 and they close Luke Air Force Base.

GE-3

20 So I know there are concerns out there about
21 sound. I hope most of those concerns have been put to
22 rest. Will it be a little louder once in a while? Quite
23 possibly. On the average it's not going to happen.

NO-9

24 So I ask you all, please support this effort
25 to acquire the F-35 for Luke Air Force Base. Thank you

1 very much.

2 COLONEL GREGORY: Mayor Jackie Meck, city of
3 Buckeye.

3086 LU

4 MR. MECK: Good evening, my name is Jackie
5 Meck, I am the mayor of Buckeye.

6 I was born in Buckeye, Arizona in 1941.
7 Buckeye is in the flight path of Luke Air Force Base, but
8 Luke aircraft flying with the Goldwater Training Range
9 located in Gila Bend.

10 I'm currently the mayor of Buckeye, and I am
11 serving my third term on the town council. The town
12 requires some developers to provide CC&Rs noticing noise
13 and over flights of aircraft at the time of purchasing a
14 residence.

15 I have lived under the, quote, cold sound of
16 freedom, unquote, my entire life. I totally support the
17 outstanding men and women of Luke Air Force Base. I have
18 heard the sound, beginning with the propeller driven
19 aircraft of the 1940s and '50s, to the jet fighters of
20 today. The west valley is fortunate to have the base,
21 Goldwater Range and the economic development, along with
22 the revenue generated by the operation. The Arizona
23 Congressional Delegation should support the F-35 at Luke.

24 Again, I totally support the F-16 aircraft
25 that are currently based here. And I am in total support

GE-3

1 of the F-35 coming to Luke Air Force Base, along with the
2 addition of the supporting air force personnel. When I
3 speak in Buckeye I say Buckeye is open for business. What
4 I'm saying now to you, Luke Air Force Base is open for
5 business. We want the F-35. Thank you.

GE-3
cont'd

6 COLONEL GREGORY: Michael LeVault, city of
7 Youngtown.

3087 LU

8 MR. LEVAULT: Good evening. For the record,
9 my name is Michael LeVault, L-e-V-a-u-l-t, and I am the
10 mayor of Youngtown.

11 I want to reiterate something I said last
12 night in El Mirage about all of the hard work that's gone
13 into ramping up for what is I think going to be a great
14 climax for the valley.

15 All of the cities and towns throughout the
16 valley, and in particular, the west valley, have worked
17 hard these last few years to close ranks and show solid
18 support for Luke and its mission to land the F-35 school
19 house.

20 Were I to stand here and list the many
21 attributes that Luke has that I think uniquely suits the
22 base for the F-35, it would be a long list. Let me just
23 touch on a few of them.

GE-3

24 Obviously, Luke's proximity to the Phoenix
25 megaplex is a great plus. That means Luke is close to a

1 world class transportation system, the I-10, I-17, Luke's
2 101 and 303. All of the airmen and women at Luke have
3 access to world class amenities in the Phoenix megaplex.
4 Those are great attributes, the base being so well
5 located.

6 From a military standpoint, as you saw in
7 the presentation earlier, most of the airmen that are
8 flying in the Middle Eastern theater have been trained
9 right here at Luke. Our excellent flying conditions, I
10 think we have something like 340 sunny days per year, I
11 guess we're the OPEC of sunshine, I think the governor
12 calls us. But those are ideal flying conditions. The
13 topography is well -- is very suited to approximate the
14 kind of terrain they're going to be flying over in the
15 Middle East.

16 And finally, the base's proximity to the
17 Barry M. Goldwater Bombing Range right there at the base's
18 back door. The BMG Range is something that is -- it's
19 really a treasure, something that is not -- cannot be
20 replicated anywhere in the world. And so I think those
21 things uniquely suit Luke to be the selection for the
22 F-35.

23 You know, if you look at this thing from a
24 selfish standpoint, as Mayor Barrett said a few minutes
25 ago, Luke is a tremendous economic engine for the valley.

GE-3
cont'd

1 I think it's something like 2.3 billion dollars per year
2 that is directly attributable to that base. But let's set
3 that aside, and let's look at it from a national security
4 standpoint. We need the F-35 and the pilots that will be
5 trained to fly those aircraft to be based here at Luke.
6 It is a national security issue. And I know that Maricopa
7 county, the state of Arizona, and the United States of
8 America will benefit by Luke landing the F-35 school
9 house. Thank you.

GE-3
cont'd

10 COLONEL GREGORY: Ms. Wally Campbell,
11 Goodyear city council. Ms. Campbell.

3088 LU

12 MS. CAMPBELL: Good evening. Before I start
13 my remarks, I'm a very proud wife of an air force officer,
14 who served our country for 26 years. I am honored to
15 stand before you -- thank you. I am honored to stand
16 before you tonight to express my support for Luke Air
17 Force base as the location for the United States Air Force
18 F-35 mission.

GE-3

19 Luke has advanced the mission of the air
20 force through its critical training of numerous men and
21 women in order to prepare them to defend our country and
22 to protect the freedoms that we enjoy every single day.
23 Building on its reputation as the finest training base in
24 the world, Luke is the most logical selection for the F-35
25 mission. Luke has the capacity to house up to six

GE-3

1 squadrons of the F-35, along with a network of auxiliary
2 fields, which are of critical importance to the mission.

3 With the F-35 mission at Luke, the air force
4 can continue to utilize our many amenities to make their
5 training mission go to the next level. Arizona has the
6 ideal climate for year-round training, with over 300 days
7 of sunshine, which minimizes any flight delays or
8 cancellations due to inclement weather conditions. Luke
9 has adequate airspace and land to conduct its training
10 missions, including the unparalleled Barry M. Goldwater
11 Range, to carry out real world training exercise.

GE-3
cont'd

12 This range consists of roughly 1.9 million
13 acres of land, and has over 57,000 cubic feet -- or cubic
14 miles of airspace, which is roughly the size of
15 Connecticut. The immense size of the complex allows for
16 simultaneously training activities, and is approved for
17 both day and night training. It is critical to train our
18 combat military to use this facility.

19 It is also in close proximity to the Gila
20 Bend Air Force Auxiliary Station, which has 8,500 feet of
21 runway and can be used as an emergency landing facility,
22 if needed.

23 Finally, and critically the most important,
24 is that Luke has the absolute support for this next door
25 step from its neighbors in the community. While

1 completing its mission, Luke and the cities of the west
2 valley have worked together to build a strong alliance as
3 demonstrated by organizations in support of Luke as the
4 thriving fighter country partnership and west valley
5 partners.

6 Luke is also an economic asset to our
7 region, and impact is approximately two billion. Arizona
8 is viewed as the model for proactively and successfully
9 securing state-wide legislation that ensures responsible
10 land use planning around military operations to ensure
11 that the development is compatible with the mission. Our
12 west valley communities have demonstrated their commitment
13 to the sustainability of Luke through local land use and
14 planning.

15 These are just a few examples of the many
16 reasons why I encourage the record of decision to support
17 the air force recommendation of Luke Air Force Base as the
18 future home of the F-35 mission. Thank you.

GE-3

19 COLONEL GREGORY: Mr. Phil Lieberman, City
20 of Glendale. Mr. Lieberman.

3089 LU

21 MR. LIEBERMAN: Hi. First I want to thank
22 you all for being here. Your presence here alone tells me
23 a whole lot. I am Phil Lieberman. I have been on the
24 Glendale council for 21 years. For those of you that are
25 ex GIs, along with my company's C 2nd Engineers 10th

1 Mountain Division.

2 Okay. Luke is in the city limits of
3 Glendale. We have done everything we can possibly think
4 of, including trips to Washington, to talk to air force
5 Secretary Donnelly, to get the F-35 for Luke. We not only
6 need it for the city, we not only need it for the income,
7 we need it because it is the finest training base in the
8 world for our aircraft. We need the next generation of
9 aircraft. The F-35 serves that very, very purpose.

GE-3

10 It will be with us amazingly 40 years.
11 We're not training with planes that are not necessarily
12 obsolete, they're still some of the finest aircraft in the
13 world. But we are ready for the next improved model
14 that's the F-35. Glendale will do anything, or have done
15 anything, that we can possibly do to assure that Luke
16 still stays as the largest fighter training base in the
17 world. We're happy with that. We look forward to not
18 only cohesion with Luke Air Force Base, we look forward to
19 being with Luke Air Force Base. It's an absolute great
20 facility. General Harris does an outstanding job, as does
21 the rest of the staff from Luke.

22 And we are proud of the fact, again, that
23 Luke Air Force Base is in the city of Glendale. We like
24 it. We're going to continue to like it when the F-35s
25 come in. I can't wait. Thank you again for being here.

1 COLONEL GREGORY: Lisa Atkins, who is
2 co-chair of the Governors for Military Affairs Commission.
3 Ms. Atkins.

3090 LU

4 MS. ATKINS: Good evening. My name is Lisa
5 Atkins, A-t-k-i-n-s, and I'm the co-chair of the Governors
6 Military Affairs Commission.

7 I would like to thank the air force for
8 holding these public meetings, but more importantly, I
9 would like to thank all of you for taking the time to show
10 your interest, and taking the time out of your evening to
11 be here tonight. What a great sight to see a full room of
12 interested citizens participating in a public process.

13 I have something a little bit different to
14 say tonight, and you will hear some of the other speakers,
15 because I'm one of two civilians in the entire state of
16 Arizona who actually has heard the F-35.

17 Two years ago this week I was invited, along
18 with another civic leader, by the commander of the Air to
19 Location Training Command, to fly to Florida to go to
20 Eglin to be on the flight line to listen to the F-35.
21 We had a chance to look the plane over while it was
22 sitting on the ground. More importantly, we had a chance
23 to be on the flight line when it took off and when it
24 landed. And in that flight pattern was an F-16, F-18 and
25 a F-35. And I'm here to tell you tonight, because I saw

NO-9

1 all the numbers that you all saw on the EIS, that that is
2 a computer modeling number, as far as I'm concerned.
3 Because with my own ears, standing on that flight line, I
4 can tell you that after hearing all three of those planes,
5 there was not a discernable difference in the noise.

NO-9
cont'd

6 One other thing that I wanted to bring to
7 your attention, because I've been involved in issues
8 involving all of our military installations in Arizona,
9 but particularly Luke, because it's the closest to my
10 heart, that this state leads the nation in protecting
11 private property rights and balancing the protection and
12 the enhancement of the missions at every one of the
13 military installations in the state of Arizona. So let's
14 not forget that the lines that you saw on the map earlier
15 that show the footprint that the legislature and the
16 governor put in statute in the late '80s and early '90s
17 are not fabricated lines, they're not computer models,
18 they are, in fact, actual noise lines that the community,
19 some of you were here at the time and some folks who are
20 no longer with us, accepted based on the F-15 noise
21 levels.

22 Those are not hypothetical. The valley was
23 used to those noise levels. And the noise levels of the
24 F-35 will more than comfortably fit within the lines that
25 were based on the F-15.

NO-10

1 Again, from the bottom of my heart, thank
2 you guys for coming tonight. It means a great deal to see
3 a packed room in support of the air force. Thank you so
4 much.

5 COLONEL GREGORY: Allen McGuire of the
6 McGuire Company.

3091 LU

7 MR. MCGUIRE: Good evening. Thank you for
8 the opportunity to be here tonight. My name is Allen
9 McGuire, I'm an economist here in the valley, and have
10 been so for 30 years. My firm, the McGuire Company,
11 conducted two studies of the Arizona military industry
12 based on 2000 data and 2005 data.

13 It's important for you to know that was the
14 first time a study like that had ever been conducted in
15 the United States. And since it was done in Arizona it's
16 been copied by a dozen different states. The 2002 study,
17 based on 2000 data, was paid for by nine cities in
18 Arizona, lead by a group normally referred to as the
19 military mayors, some of whom are here this evening.

20 The 2008 study, based on 2005 data, was paid
21 for by the state of Arizona, by the Arizona Department of
22 Commerce, in recognition of the importance of the Arizona
23 military industry to the state of Arizona as a driver of
24 our economy.

25 Now, our study focused on the military

1 facilities, not all the defense contractors in the state
2 of Arizona, of which we had very many. And I'm going to
3 talk a little bit about that industry, but I want to put
4 it in perspective, because Luke Air Force Base is the
5 lynch pin in that industry.

6 So what does this industry mean to Arizona?

7 Well, it's often overlooked. We think about lots of other
8 things in Arizona, and we forget about our military. But
9 that industry in 2005, certainly much larger today,
10 ensured that 96,000 people in Arizona have a job. It
11 resulted in over nine billion dollars of spending in this
12 state, and that spending translates into over 400 million
13 dollars of taxes every year. Those taxes go to support
14 public safety, the sheriff, the fire departments, the
15 police departments, go to support transportation, go for
16 education, go for environmental protection. All crucial
17 services that you need every single day of your life are
18 supported by that industry.

19 So what's Luke's role in that industry?

20 Well, as I mentioned, Luke is the lynch pin of that
21 overall industry. And it ensures the 22,000 people have
22 jobs in Arizona. It injects, directly and indirectly,
23 over two billion dollars of economic activity in our
24 state, which in turn results in \$115 million dollars in
25 taxes every single year.

1 And what's particularly important to me as
2 an economist, is that industry is recession proof. Now,
3 we've lived through one of the worst recessions in modern
4 times in the last few years. We've seen manufacturing go
5 down, we've seen almost every category of employment drop,
6 but military spending remains constant year in and year
7 out. And that makes it a very, very important part of our
8 industry.

9 So let me give you a little bit of
10 perspective here. It's hard to understand what economists
11 talk about, I understand that. But let me give you some
12 sense of what 96,000 jobs in Arizona really means. So
13 96,000 jobs is more than all the jobs that Intel provides,
14 plus all the jobs that Honeywell provides, plus all the
15 jobs that Raytheon provides, plus all the jobs for all of
16 Fry's retail operations in the state of Arizona, plus all
17 the employees for the Wells Fargo banking system, plus our
18 largest hospital system, the Banner Healthcare System
19 Administrator for Arizona. That's a huge impact. We
20 cannot afford to lose that in other economy, especially at
21 this time.

22 And as I mentioned at the beginning, the
23 lynch pin of that industry is Luke Air Force Base. So I
24 ask you to protect this crucial industry for the economy
25 of Arizona, and to protect Luke Air Force Base. Thank you

GE-3

1 very much.

2 COLONEL GREGORY: Patricia Rupers. And I
3 ask your indulgence in advance if I mispronounce your
4 name.

5 MS. RUPERS: I'm Patricia Rupers,
6 R-u-p-e-r-s. And I'm the wife of a man who spent four
7 years in the army, and 38 and a half years in the
8 Wisconsin Air National Guard.

9 When we came down here 13 years ago to
10 purchase our home we were told that we were within the
11 proximity of the railroad tracks and Luke Air Force Base.
12 And we said "Great, that's why we're coming, is because of
13 Luke."

14 And we trust that they will stay. And we're
15 praying that the F-35 will be part of it. Thank you.

16 COLONEL GREGORY: Ron Schwab.

17 MR. SCHWAB: My name is Ron Schwab,
18 S-c-h-w-a-b. I just want to -- I guess I was going to say
19 a lot that Debbie said, a lot that the mayor from Buckeye
20 said about the economy, about the area available for
21 flying in.

22 But I also want to mentioned some of the
23 other bases that are being considered, such as Idaho and
24 New Mexico. Up there you've got mountains, and when
25 you're in the training mode you don't need to have a lot

3092 LU

GE-3

3093 LU

GE-3

1 of mountains around. And I think one advantage that Luke
2 has is it's flat. You don't have really mountains here
3 other than when you get up north. But other than that,
4 it's a very safe place to fly, especially for individuals.
5 I realize its advanced training and pilots know how to fly
6 an airplane, but there's still a lot to learn when you get
7 these new airplanes. And I feel like Luke would save the
8 air force a lot of money just in equipment.

9 And so I'm supporting the Luke Air Force
10 Base for the F-35As. I'm retired navy. I don't see navy
11 planes, but we'll settle for the air force. Thank you.

12 COLONEL GREGORY: Steven Watts. Steven
13 Watts.

14 MR. WATTS: Thank you very much. My name is
15 Steven Watts, W-a-t-t-s. I'm currently a candidate for
16 United States Senator from Arizona. And were I to be your
17 senator, and even as a private citizen, I 110 percent
18 support the F-35 mission. Absolutely. Make no mistake
19 about it, Luke is on the front lines of the war in defense
20 of our freedom and liberties.

21 There are enemies out there gathering that
22 are not going to wait for us to make a mistake, they're
23 not going to wait for us to improve certain systems,
24 they're already advancing. And we must be steadfast in
25 our resolution in supporting this program, and the brave

GE-3
cont'd

3094 LU

GE-3

1 men and women that serve at Luke Air Force Base.

2 Let me tell you a little story. In the
3 early '80s I was a part of something called Cold War, a
4 veteran of the United States Air Force, and I was
5 stationed overseas in a little place called
6 Iraklion Air Station on the island of Crete. And we were
7 closer to Libya than we were Greece. And it just so
8 happened that one year Ronald Reagan got upset with
9 Gaddafi for blowing up the Pan Am plane over Lockerbee.
10 And he decided he wanted to send him a message, so he sent
11 some planes of ours over. And they tried to get him, but
12 they missed. And they got one of his tents. So he got so
13 mad that he told our base he was going to blow it up.

14 Now, we were the only base in the
15 Meditteranean that had a beach and no runway and no
16 planes. And down the coast was Souda Bay Naval Air
17 Station. And the navy had the planes and no beach.

18 So that was funny until this happened,
19 because we were wondering what's going to happen to us.
20 So we went out on the beach in our full chemical warfare
21 gear, waiting for Gadaffi to send his planes over. And
22 instead, we saw the United States Navy and United States
23 Air Force jets hovering over our base protecting us.

24 And I want to give everybody in Afghanistan
25 and Iraq, and all the places around the world that are

1 currently serving in the military, the same feeling of
2 faith and trust and protection that I felt when I saw our
3 military providing air cover for us in defense of liberty
4 and freedom.

5 I would like to add and close in saying
6 this; this is the land of the free because it is the home
7 of the brave. And that includes all of you. We have the
8 honor and privilege of living in the shadow of the freedom
9 and liberty that is provided by the brave men and women of
10 Luke Air Force Base. I want to thank you for serving them
11 as they serve us. God bless you.

12 COLONEL GREGORY: Mr. Paul Breza, of the
13 Luke Volunteer Red Cross.

14 MR. BREZA: Hi. I moved here 31 years ago.
15 I worked for some years in the hospitals. I then went to
16 volunteer at Luke Air Force Base for 12 years. I worked
17 in the support section of Squadron 308 and Squadron 63. I
18 then retired from them when the gas got so high, the
19 price, that I couldn't afford to travel from Sun City West
20 to Luke. So I then ran for the Governing Board of
21 Directors of Sun City West, and I was elected.

22 And in the three years that I served with
23 them I did not hear one complaint from the 27,
24 approximately, thousand residents that we have in Sun City
25 West, about anything regarding Luke Air Force Base, and

1 that includes the sound. The only comments that I heard,
2 and also from the other eight board of directors, was that
3 it was very positive, that Luke should be proud -- that we
4 should be proud, very proud, of not just the commander,
5 not just the pilots, but mostly -- excuse me, I'm sorry,
6 but I'm very emotional -- proud of the people that worked
7 on the maintenance where I worked.

8 They get the plane running, and they are
9 approximately 5,000 of them on the base who come here, and
10 they work frequently sometimes six months, sometimes a
11 year, sometimes they come back again to fulfill their
12 requirements, but all of them are the top notch people in
13 the world. They come back here to live because they love
14 Arizona and the people that live and work here.

15 I'm so proud of Luke and the people that
16 supply us our means of living safely and happily, and I
17 can't describe it any better than what I've just done.
18 Thank you.

GE-3

19 COLONEL GREGORY: Dr. Pat Taylor.

20 DR. TAYLOR: Good evening. Generally I like
21 to present unique and interesting information. Tonight,
22 though, I am very happy to reiterate and support
23 everything that's already been said. And I'm going to cry
24 because you were crying.

3096 LU

25 It's just, you know, very, very critical

GE-3

1 that we support the Luke Air Force Base, the F-35 project.
2 And people need to understand the total ramifications of
3 everything on all the levels; the economic and national
4 security. And basically, I really don't need to say
5 anymore because it's all been said already. And also just
6 thank you to the air force.

GE-3
cont'd

7 COLONEL GREGORY: Joseph Zook, who
8 identifies himself as a former marine corps pilot. Where
9 is the marine corps? Oh, here we go. All right.

10 MR. ZOOK: Marine corps is still here. Good
11 evening, my name is Joseph Zook, Z-o-o-k.

3097 LU

12 Let me start by saying I am pro Luke, I am
13 pro F-35. Colonel, I want to be fair with you and tell
14 you where I'm coming from. I was a pilot in the marine
15 corps in World War II, saw duty in the South Pacific, and
16 also put in one tour as the landing signal officer on a
17 Jeep carrier for a night fighter squadron. I underline
18 Jeep night fighters. I think I know a little bit about
19 the methods of landing aircraft.

GE-3

20 My comments are directed primarily at you.
21 I don't understand your landing pattern whereby these
22 students get lined up with your 6,000 foot runway five
23 miles out, and flutter along using that throttle just like
24 their great grandmother did pumping water in her sink out
25 of the cistern. No wonder people are upset with the

1 noise. You're your own worst enemy.

2 Now, for heavens sakes, why can't you alter
3 the flight pattern, come in at a higher altitude and
4 steeper glide angle, with practically zero or very little
5 power? I don't understand it.

6 Now, this is not the place for you and I to
7 get into a debate about landing procedures, as much as I
8 would like to. But you could knock 70 percent of the
9 squawking about noise at Luke by changing your landing
10 patterns. Wouldn't that make people happy? Damn right it
11 would.

NO-20

12 Now, in conclusion, the red flag isn't up,
13 don't go away. Thank you. Don't go away. To add
14 credence to what I've been saying, there was an article in
15 the Wall Street Journal dated April 1st, 2010, and believe
16 it or not, Southwest Airlines adopted a landing procedure
17 exactly the way I just described it to the Colonel. And
18 here is a copy for you, sir.

19 COLONEL GREGORY: How about a round of
20 applause for our World War II marine pilot? And I wish I
21 could talk to him about landing patterns and things, but
22 since I can't do math, I'm not a pilot, I had to go to law
23 school. But I'll make sure these comments get in the
24 record.

25 Mr. David Collins.

1 MR. COLLINS: Thank you, Colonel. My name
2 is Dave Collins, C-o-l-l-i-n-s. My lovely wife and I have
3 lived here for 16 years, and we appreciate the fact that
4 we are able to hear the sound of freedom going over our
5 heads.

6 I would like to take a moment, if I may,
7 because I've never been at one of these public hearings,
8 so I don't know if this is apropos or not.

9 But Colonel, for you and all the fellows and
10 ladies from the air force here tonight, thank you very
11 much for your participation and for your help in keeping
12 our country free. We appreciate it.

13 Now, I don't know if you've heard, but my
14 wife told me before I came up that I should be careful and
15 do something that Will Rogers said a long time ago, and
16 that was to keep your mouth shut and be thought stupid, or
17 open it up and remove all doubt. So you be the judge of
18 whether there's stupidity going on or not.

19 But I've heard one person talk about
20 complaints, Mr. Zook. He's a marine. I'm also a marine,
21 although I've been discharged for 54 years. And God bless
22 you, Mr. Zook, I appreciate you and appreciate your
23 service, but we need the air force, we need them there, we
24 need to protect our country. And God help us if they
25 aren't. Thank you very much.

GE-3

1 COLONEL GREGORY: George Turner, chief
2 warrant officer retired.

3099 LU

3 MR. TURNER: Thank you, Colonel. And I
4 appreciate the opportunity to talk to you just for a few
5 minutes.

6 I've been a man of few words. I have a hell
7 of a reputation for talking too much, so I'll make it
8 quick. But please hold the clock. I'm color blind, so I
9 don't know if it's red or green.

10 I enlisted in U.S. Air Force back when I was
11 17 years old back in January 1952. The air force was only
12 four years and four months old, having become a separate
13 branch of the armed forces in 1947. I served 15 years and
14 eight months for the air force. And coming off of one of
15 the staff as a tech sergeant.

16 On the list for master sergeant in the air
17 force, I was offered an opportunity I couldn't pass up,
18 and I became an army warrant officer, and I'm very proud
19 of that.

20 Now, I want to make a comment about our
21 marine brother there. I was in and out of Nam probably
22 about eight times. I had two tours over there. And I
23 remember our planes coming in at a very, very steep
24 descent, but we were doing it because if you came in low
25 and slow we would find bullet holes all over the aircraft,

1 so I'm with you.

2 Luke to us, my wife and I, and I'm sure to
3 many of the military here, we see Luke as our second home.
4 There aren't many facilities out there you find in a small
5 city of that size. And we count on Luke for a lot of
6 things. I have two more years and I'll be 80 years old,
7 and I hope I live long enough to see the F-35s come to
8 Luke. And we're definitely very proud of that fact.

GE-3

9 Everywhere I was stationed in 30 years on
10 active duty I was very proud of one thing, and it made me
11 feel like home. It's right there. And when I see the
12 flag flying on the base, that's my second home. And we
13 better damn well get the F-35s or I'm going to raise hell.

GE-3

14 Colonel, thank you very much. Do I have any
15 time left?

16 COLONEL GREGORY: Brigadier General retired
17 Tom Browning. General Browning.

3100 LU

18 GENERAL BROWNING: Thank you very much. It
19 was my good fortune to command Luke Air Force Base in the
20 1991/92 time frame. And during that period of time we
21 went through the same process. Slow, it's agonizing, but
22 we absolutely had to do it. At that time there was a
23 series of lines, noise lines, drawn around the base using
24 basically the same methodology. At that time we had 220
25 fighters at Luke, F-15s and F-16s.

1 And those lines, they didn't brief it during
 2 the briefing, but if you will look at the chart they're
 3 the black lines that totally enclose all these other lines
 4 that you were briefed on tonight. Under the L3 or L4
 5 scenarios, which are by far the most likely, not just
 6 simply preferred, there would be roughly half the sortie
 7 rate that we were flying in there early to mid '90s. So
 8 the number of noise events, given the same sortie rates,
 9 are going to be roughly half under the new scenarios than
 10 they were during that time frame. So just the spot noise
 11 events, that decrease will make a huge difference. So I
 12 would ask you to keep that in mind.

NO-9

13 I would also like to reiterate something
 14 Lisa Atkins said, and that is that following those lines
 15 in the mid '90s who saw the local folks in the west valley
 16 to include elected officials and our legislature and
 17 governor at the time, were wise enough to put those lines
 18 in statute. And those are the governing lines now that
 19 dictate notification for new property owners, and so on
 20 and so forth. Those lines have been in existence since
 21 that time.

22 During the most recent Brac process, Lisa
 23 and I accompanied then Governor Napolitano to Clovis, New
 24 Mexico, to participate in the Brac hearing process.
 25 Following that whole process Luke came out preserved, and

1 hopefully it will do so again.

2 But interestingly, in some of the appeals
 3 that were filed afterwards with the Brac Commission, they
 4 were told under no uncertain terms by the chairman to take
 5 a look at Arizona, look at Luke Air Force Base, and look
 6 at what the community has done in support of that base,
 7 and what the elected officials of the local and state
 8 level have done to ensure that that base survives in
 9 perpetuity.

10 I would like to thank you very much for
 11 being here tonight. While I was commander at Luke I had
 12 the pleasure of coming out to Sun City and Sun City West
 13 on a number of occasions, and I always was greeted very
 14 warmly. And I always sincerely appreciate the patriotism
 15 and great feelings of support for our men and women at
 16 Luke Air Force Base. So thank you very much.

17 COLONEL GREGORY: Tammy Fisher, city of
 18 Phoenix.

3101 LU

19 MS. FISHER: Good evening. My name is Tammy
 20 Fisher, and I am Assistant Aviation Director for the City
 21 of Phoenix Aviation Department. We own and operate three
 22 airports, Phoenix Sky Harbor International airport, Deer
 23 Valley airport, and Goodyear airport. And on behalf of
 24 the city of Phoenix councilwoman, Phelda Williams, and the
 25 City of Phoenix Aviation Department, we are in strong

GE-3

1 support of Luke Air Force Base as the preferred and chosen
2 site for the F-35A training program.

GE-3
cont'd

3 Luke Air Force Base and the Phoenix Sky
4 Harbor airport are the two largest users of airspace in
5 Central Arizona. We have an excellent relationship. Luke
6 is one of our strongest partners to address the joint
7 needs of civilian and military aviation here in the
8 valley. We support their mission as a critical training
9 facility for the air force and the F-35 program.

GE-3

10 The city of Phoenix is committed to Luke Air
11 Force Base's long-term viability in our community. In
12 fact, as part of our commitment to Luke, the city of
13 Phoenix has purchased nearly 1,000 acres on the north side
14 of the base to protect the base from encroachment so it
15 continues to serve the needs of our national defense
16 system.

17 As a Peoria resident and city of Phoenix
18 employee, we're also the place where all those Southwest
19 Airlines airplanes land every day.

20 But as a Peoria resident, I'm very proud to
21 see the turnout tonight. We live very close. My folks
22 live just west of the base. And we enjoy hearing the
23 sound of freedom every day. Thank you.

24 COLONEL GREGORY: Joe Shephard.
25 Mr. Shephard. Mr. Shephard.

1 (No one responded.)

2 COLONEL GREGORY: Tony Ascanio, who is
3 retired from Boeing.

3102 LU

4 MR. ASCANIO: Thank you very much, sir.
5 Good evening. My name is Tony Ascanio, A-s-c-a-n-i-o.
6 I'm a full blooded Calibrazi Italian second generation, so
7 I'll try not to talk without too much using my hands.

8 I'm a four-year veteran of the air force,
9 the Strategic Air Command and 9th Bomber Wing, which have
10 faded into history. And we are about 15 year visitors to
11 the Paradise R.V. Park. And I don't mind listening to the
12 jets coming in and going out again. In fact, I've heard
13 it for many, many years.

14 But back in 1955 the air force did not
15 protect us with ear protection, so now I have to wear
16 hearing aids because I have severe hearing loss from being
17 out on the flight line when B-47s were taking off at 2:00
18 in the morning. Twenty-four hours a day we stayed on it.

19 Anyway, I would like to say that I support
20 the F-35s. And I appreciate the mayors and everybody
21 talking about the economic impact. But as far as I'm
22 concerned, I don't really care about that. I did my time,
23 as a lot of you did, and now it's the air force's turn to
24 protect me. And I can say make all the noise you want to.
25 Use your after burners. Thank you very much.

GE-3

1 COLONEL GREGORY: Myron Lindey Lindell,
2 Paradise RV Resort. Myron Lindell.

3103 LU

3 MR. LINDELL: Tony wants me to be brief
4 because I'm driving him home. In fact, we live in the
5 Paradise RV Park. I'm a veteran of the air force,
6 probably the lowest ranking individual of military service
7 in this room. But my military career was when Ike was
8 president in the White House. Nobody could be as
9 fortunate as I was during that time frame.

10 I did spend a year on Iwo Jima twelve years
11 after the invasion. And I have many memories there. And
12 I hope I don't get emotional like some of the other
13 speakers tonight. But I left -- my permanent residence is
14 close to Duluth, Minnesota Air Base. And the 148th there,
15 many of those individuals were trained here at Luke. And
16 my dishes and plates and photographs on the wall rattle
17 from time to time from the noise. But I don't mind it,
18 because we have freedom in this country, and I totally
19 support the F-35 program here. Thank you.

GE-3

20 COLONEL GREGORY: Glenn Hammer of the
21 Arizona Chamber.

3104 LU

22 MR. HAMMER: Thank you. Good evening. My
23 name is Glenn Hammer. I'm the president of the Arizona
24 Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

25 And first I want to say it's humbling to be

1 here this evening with so many great American heroes. And
2 I just want to thank you for everything you're done over
3 the decades to keep the greatest country in the world
4 safe, safe and free.

5 And I'm just going to talk briefly. When
6 you hear all of the comments that have already come
7 before, it's not just the economic benefits of Luke Air
8 Force Base, it's a gem for the state, it's the biggest
9 driver in the west valley. We heard from Allen McGuire
10 about the 96,000 jobs. But more important than that, it's
11 the phenomenal people that this great state has been
12 blessed to keep as citizens, perhaps after the important
13 missions were flown.

14 At the Arizona Chamber we represent
15 businesses of all types, all sizes, all across the state.
16 We represent hospitals and mines and utilities and banks.
17 And I just want small businesses, the big businesses,
18 medium size businesses, and I just want to tell you that
19 we 100 percent support Luke Air Force Base, we 100 percent
20 support having the F-35s come here. And as a policy
21 making group, we will do whatever we can to make sure that
22 this is a great environment, and that we have the F-35 for
23 the next 40 years.

GE-3

24 Thank you for the opportunity to be here
25 this evening.

1 COLONEL GREGORY: Dawn Dubsy. Dawn Dubsy.

2 MS. DUBSKY: My name is Dawn Dubsy, that's
3 D-u-b-s-k-y. Thank you for the opportunity to provide
4 comments for this EIS.

5 I think it's important to note that I'm
6 speaking for myself. And I enjoy that freedom to be able
7 to come here and participate in decisions that affect not
8 only our quality of life locally as citizens, but as
9 taxpayers.

10 As a licensed realtor in the state of
11 Arizona and a property owner in the northwest valley, I
12 feel it's imperative that the decision makers listen to
13 the air force preferred alternative. The air force feels
14 that this is the best site to support its mission and its
15 responsibility.

16 Now, I implore the decision makers to please
17 listen to the comments that you've heard here, see what
18 the state of Arizona and its people have done to protect
19 Luke, to protect the environment, to protect the
20 interests, economic and social, of those of us that are
21 business owners, those of us that are homeowners.

22 Whether it is our state statutes or the
23 local planning agencies that have put those programs into
24 affect, all of us as homeowners know that even the Arizona
25 Association of Realtors has developed forms and protocols

1 so that those missions are supported in disclosures. Our
2 forms specifically allows sellers a place to disclose that
3 the potential buyer is in the vicinity of an air force
4 base. And the buyer has to sign that they understand
5 that.

6 But more importantly, I'm concerned as a
7 taxpayer, the facilities are here. We in these economic
8 times cannot afford capricious pressure to create
9 problems. We have the best training base for this
10 mission. And I would hate to hear the sound of the
11 fighter jet replaced with that awful sucking noise that
12 we're all going to feel in here if we lose that economic
13 dollar. Each one of our local communities has existing
14 bonded indebtedness, certificates of participation that
15 were secured based on revenue that directly is affected by
16 the mission at Luke. If we lose this commission at Luke,
17 if we do not receive this recommendation as a preferred
18 alternative, we all will feel that impact. That impact is
19 significant.

20 There are ancillary services as well. Those
21 people that receive medical care, pharmacy, shopping, BX.
22 But most importantly, this is the best site for it. This
23 is the appropriate site. And the people of Arizona and
24 the people of the northwest valley have taken great steps
25 and strides to demonstrate that. And I think I would like

1 that listened to. So thank you very much.

2 COLONEL GREGORY: Margaret Stoddard.
3 Margaret Stoddard, right here in front almost.

3106 LU

4 MS. STODDARD: My name is Margaret Stoddard,
5 S-t-o-d-d-a-r-d. I cannot add to anything that was said
6 prior to my coming up here. It's been said, whether it's
7 regarding the noise, the pollution, anything else.

8 Let me tell you quickly, I am naturally a
9 senior citizen living in Sun City. I'm a World War II vet
10 of the U.S. Navy Air, so I'm a mechanic. I'm also a
11 retired Department of Defense employee, where many times
12 we've had to negotiate for planes, parts and everything
13 else. So I come from that aspect, I support Luke Air
14 Force Base, I support the F-35.

GE-3

15 I have a marine son who is in a marine air
16 squadron, so in the future he will probably be using one
17 too. I cannot say anything more except that we cannot
18 lose Luke Air Force Base. We lost March Air Force Base in
19 Riverside, California. It was a disaster over there. It
20 was a ghost for a while. And so if you think that F-16s
21 are going to stay forever after the F-35 doesn't come
22 here, that's nonsense. It will be a ghost base, and then
23 we'll be all wondering what are we going to do with the
24 property. So please get your neighbors involved. They're
25 the ones that are complaining. If they complain about

1 noise, tell them that the dogs bark eight hours a day, and
2 the planes do not fly eight hours a day. Thank you.

3 COLONEL GREGORY: Another World War II
4 veteran. Thank you. Bob Giese. Bob Giese.

3107 LU

5 MR. GIESE: Thank you very much. I just
6 would like to support this particular effort. I come from
7 Peoria, and I have previously come from the Seattle area
8 where I personally worked on a navy project almost exactly
9 like this.

GE-3

10 Two things -- by the way, G-i-e-s-e for the
11 spelling. And the situation is, it takes a long, long
12 time, it's going to take everybody's patience and effort
13 and keeping this thing on track. The people in Washington
14 are going to want to change, change, change. Stop that.
15 Just flat stop it.

16 And go to your congressman, go to your
17 senators, go to whoever you have to, to just stop the
18 change and put it in, stay online, stay on track. And
19 that's the only way we're going to get this in reasonably.

20 Now, the situation I was telling you about
21 by Seattle were the Whidbey Air Station, they put their
22 fighter system in, it's the navy fighters. And there was
23 a training station there. And that particular training
24 station now is up and in service. And the air force needs
25 exactly the same, exactly.

1 And Colonel Webb, is he still here? Yeah.
2 Colonel Webb, I have one request. At night could you kind
3 of keep it down a little bit? Because the coyotes are
4 howling long after you're gone.

5 COLONEL GREGORY: Gene Baiori. And I hope
6 I'm pronouncing it correctly, B-a-i-o-r-i.

3108 LU

7 MS. BAIORI: Thank you. I want to thank
8 all of the -- excuse me, I am an emotional person. I want
9 to thank the military, past and present, for protecting us
10 and protecting this flag and what it stands for.

11 I want to say I agree with the first lady
12 that spoke. When I moved here I had to sign that paper,
13 and I was in a flight pattern. And also about the
14 whistles from the trains. I like that, it's music to my
15 ears that I know I have a sense of security that those
16 planes are there. The people that complain about this
17 noise, you knew this when you moved here. It's like the
18 person who buys a house next to the pig farm, and then
19 they don't like the smell of it, and they want it to close
20 down. I know this happens, because it happened where I
21 came from many times. You know, they wanted the goat farm
22 closed, they wanted the pig farm closed. But you live
23 with this. They were here first, and they are our
24 protection. And as far as the noise goes, if you can
25 think about stopping at a red light and listening to the

1 booming radios in the car next to you, to me that's more
2 deafening in my ears than the flash of the jet passing
3 over and all. And I hope I am making you laugh a little
4 bit, but to me that's how I truly feel.

5 And also, that I've lived in New York and
6 New Jersey, and my husband survived 9-11. Excuse me. My
7 husband and my family members, we were fortunate. We did
8 lose some friends and so forth. But 9-11 was devastating,
9 if you weren't there, if you didn't live through that,
10 it's -- my husband was missing for 12 hours and all.

11 But anyway, when I hear those jets I know I
12 feel safe, I feel secure, and I know that they're going to
13 be there to protect me.]

GE-3

14 And as far as the economic impact goes, if
15 we lose that, that sound is going to be more deafening to
16 your years than the noise of the jet passing over. Thank
17 you so much.

18 COLONEL GREGORY: Thomas Spence. Thomas
19 Spence.

3109 LU

20 MR. SPENCE: Yes, my name is Thomas
21 S-p-e-n-c-e. And I arrived here in the valley in 1943.
22 My parents brought me out here from back east because they
23 had an appointment over here in Litchfield Park. And as I
24 recall from people telling me, that my dad was a civilian
25 worker for the Department of War, and that's how I got

1 here. So as the story goes, I grew up in the west valley
 2 all my life and went to grammar school here on the west
 3 side. And it was about 1953, when I was about eleven, ten
 4 or eleven years old, the schools' windows were blown out.
 5 And I heard this big boom. Okay. And everyone says "What
 6 was that?" You know, get down because the glass was going
 7 everywhere. Then we come to find out it was an F-86 Saber
 8 flew a little too close to the school at that time. And
 9 he broke the sound barrier, and so there was a big hoopla
 10 over it and everything in the paper, about how they were
 11 going to shut down Luke at that time. There was a lot
 12 going on because, you know, the kids, it's always the
 13 kids, you know, they were in danger. Luke had to look out
 14 for it. Well, when I found out what was going on I says
 15 "I want to be one of them guys," one of those pilots.
 16 Well, as a matter of fact, I didn't grow up to be a pilot,
 17 but I had some people to look up to; my older brother that
 18 served in 1945, in April, just as the war was ending in
 19 Europe. I had three uncles that served over in that
 20 theater. And one -- three brothers, as a matter of fact.
 21 And the younger brother, the fourth brother, served in the
 22 marine corps, and was lost at Guatacanal. So that give me
 23 some incentive when I found out the family history that I
 24 would like to be a pilot.

25 But that was not to be. My road took me to

1 become a machinist. I went into apprenticeship, and from
 2 '65 until 2010 I worked as a machinist here in the valley
 3 for Air Research Allied Signal and Honeywell. And I've
 4 made hardware for those projects that those companies had
 5 going, like helicopter seats for the Hewey, that protected
 6 our guys. I wasn't in the military, but we made the
 7 protective seats because they were getting pretty shot up
 8 over there before they had those armored seats in Vietnam.

9 And then when the F-15 came out to Luke in
 10 '75 I was working on -- I didn't know it at the time,
 11 because they didn't give us a lot of history on it, but I
 12 was part of that project because I was manufacturing the
 13 landing gear as part of the assembly.

14 Then later, to make a long story short, I
 15 was involved in making some parts for the H-1H Apache. So
 16 I never did get to fly one, but I made lots of parts for
 17 them. Thank you.

18 COLONEL GREGORY: Helen Peck. Helen Peck.
 19 MS. PECK: My name is Helen Peck, P-e-c-k.

20 And just to let you know, my husband is a veteran of the
 21 Vietnam war. So I just want to make sure I don't have to
 22 dodge any rotten tomatoes tonight, because I am not for
 23 the F-35 being based at Luke. I live in one of the flight
 24 patterns apparently, that runs from about 9:00 in the
 25 evening until about 11:00.

3110 LU

GE-3

1 Which I don't know what happened, I've lived
2 in my home for over 20 years, and in the last five or
3 six years the flight pattern was changed or something for
4 Auxiliary 1 or something. And I've -- all that I've read
5 on it kind of worries me because I find that they are
6 possibly delivered into the base by somebody sitting at a
7 computer.

8 I watch TV, and I seen on TV last year a
9 family that was destroyed in California, six members wiped
10 out in the blink of the eye. So I like sleeping at night.
11 And I support our flag, I support America, but I think the
12 F-35 would be better off posted in maybe Holloman or
13 another base.

GE-1

14 I think our population here can't -- the
15 residential area can't support having flight patterns over
16 their homes in the middle of the night. I moved here in
17 my home in '89, for the gentlemen that just said that.

NO-3

18 That's another thing; '91 or something
19 someone said the flight patterns were changed or
20 something. Nobody gave me a piece of paper saying you're
21 in a flight pattern. Also, this is the sound of freedom.
22 Since I've been here tonight I've been threatened with
23 possible not just air noise at night, but phone calls in
24 the middle of the night. So if that's your sound of
25 freedom, I don't care for it. But that's my comments.

SO-12

1 And I'm emotional too. And I really do
2 support our air force, but I enjoy my sleep at night too.
3 And there's other people. I feel sorry for El Mirage. El
4 Mirage was ostracized last year because they spoke out
5 against the base. So I can see how they feel. There's
6 been a lot of support, not so much in opposition, because
7 I think people are afraid to get up and speak out because
8 of threats. Thank you.

9 COLONEL GREGORY: Well, again, everyone, pro
10 or con, gets three minutes at the mic.

11 Terry Collier, local citizen and Peoria
12 Chamber of Commerce. Terry Collier.

13 (No one responded.)

14 COLONEL GREGORY: I'll come back. Lisa
15 LeBarr, M.D.

3111 LU

16 DR. LEBARR: Hi. Thank you. Not being in
17 politics, I will try to limit my comments to the EIS, as I
18 think we were asked to do.

19 So specifically, with respect to the studies
20 that have been presented, I would like to mention that
21 some of the sound conclusions, or rather some of the
22 conclusions arrived at by the study pertain to sound
23 studies based on the average of decibels over a 24-hour
24 period.

NO-81

25 However, I think it's very well established

1 in the literature that damage to hearing is caused by
2 peaks in sound level, not so much the average. So I don't
3 know if that has been addressed. I don't see that that
4 has been addressed anywhere in the studies.

NO-81
cont'd

5 Furthermore, something that I don't
6 necessarily see addressed in the studies, I have had a
7 very limited amount of time to look at the paperwork. And
8 I'm sorry that we have so little time to have any kind of
9 independent assessment of the EIS. What I'm finding is
10 that I was first exposed to the final presentation in the
11 form of a book that was offered at the first meeting. And
12 these books are available at the libraries. And until
13 this week, I did not know that they were available in the
14 libraries. I suspect they've only been available for the
15 last few days, and yet we only have until March 14th to
16 render all of our comments, including any type of
17 individual assessment we might wish to have done of the
18 studies that have already been done. And I think that's
19 not enough time to allow for input. And I would
20 respectfully ask that a consideration be made to extend
21 this period of time by at least 30 days sometime in the
22 future to discuss that issue at one time or another.

NP-12

23 We've alluded many times, and the EIS
24 alludes many times, to pilot training. The term pilot
25 training has come up many, many times, and I think we need

PN-4

1 to consider the fact that only some of the pilots being
2 trained are actually American and serving in the American
3 forces over the last ten years. Most of the -- at least a
4 good number of the people being trained in F-16s have been
5 foreign pilots who come here to be trained in our climate
6 and then have to return to their countries and learn to
7 accommodate the F-16s to their climate. And I think they
8 would benefit far more by being trained in their homeland
9 with their particular situations. We already know at a
10 very different level how difficult it was to acclimatize
11 American equipment when we arrived in Afghanistan, and now
12 these pilots are being faced with completely different
13 situations when they arrive in their own countries. And
14 in particular, with respect to the F-35, we have an issue
15 with climate tolerance and whatnot, especially with
16 respect to colder temperatures. And I don't think that's
17 being addressed anywhere with respect to the number of
18 flights that we need to have here.

PN-4
cont'd

19 And I don't know, and again, I have not
20 reviewed that tome, which I notice is titled Volume 1, so
21 I'm almost dreading Volume 2, but I have not noticed the
22 actual number of flights being computed. I believe at
23 this time we're looking with the number of F-16s we have
24 at approximately one-third of the number of flights that
25 we will be having in the future. But I must limit my

DO-45

1 comments. I thank you very much.

2 COLONEL GREGORY: Walter Opaska.

3 MR. OPASKA: Hello. My name is Walter
4 Opaska, O-p-a-s-k-a. I'm a resident of Glendale and also
5 a candidate for the mayor of Glendale. I come out here
6 tonight to fully support, enthusiastically support,
7 bringing the F-35s to Luke.

3112 LU

GE-3

8 Luke Air Force Base is one of Arizona's and
9 the military's greatest asset. Service members stationed
10 and trained at Luke have heroically served our country in
11 numerous wars, and I'm personally grateful for everything
12 they're done to protect our country.

13 Additionally, it's probably unique of anyone
14 here tonight, is my brother actually is an engineer who's
15 worked on designing the joint strike fighter and the F-35.
16 So I've been hearing about the F-35 for years from him
17 from the design perspective.

18 And it's -- from what he's told me, it's a
19 great airplane, and I think it would be a tremendous asset
20 for Luke, and it would be a perfect fit if we brought this
21 F-35 to Luke. Thank you.

GE-3

22 COLONEL GREGORY: Ms. Elaine Weinberg.

23 MS. WEINBERG: Good evening. My name is
24 Elaine Weinberg, and I'm an air force widow. And I want
25 to tell you that I was born and raised in Phoenix. And my

3113 LU

1 first experience with Luke Air Force Base was when I was
2 ten years old my mother worked as a mechanic for the war
3 effort out there. But that wasn't until the '50s that I
4 started dating one of those fly boys, and I ended up
5 marrying one. And he gave 28 years of his time and life
6 to the air force.

7 He loved it. And I know if he were here
8 today he would say exactly the same thing I am, keep 'em
9 flying, it's a great airplane, and I wish I were there.
10 Let's help them. Let's keep Luke going.

GE-3

11 Thank you very much.

12 COLONEL GREGORY: Melvin Pack. Melvin Pack.

13 MR. PACK: My name is Melvin Pack, P-a-c-k.
14 I've been a valley resident all my life. I have lived
15 under these jets from El Mirage. I went to Dizzard
16 school, and the teachers would have to pause as the jets
17 would fly over. Now, I am not against the sound of
18 freedom, but that sound of freedom could just be as well
19 in another state as it could be here. And not only that,
20 but I don't care about the economic impact. Williams Air
21 Force base closed down and this state didn't close down on
22 account of it. And Luke is not going to go away any time
23 soon. So this is not a big impact. If it did come off
24 very slowly, because they're going to keep flying the
25 F-16s for a long time. But the noise from them is just

3114 LU

GE-3

NO-1

1 tremendous. And if the F-22 is even greater, it's going
2 to be even worse.

3 Now, I come from a construction outfit
4 background. I was in Vietnam carrying an M-16, and I know
5 noise from there and I know noise from construction. And
6 these jets are noisy, the F-16. And the F-35 is supposed
7 to be noisier. I just am not going to move from the west
8 valley that I've lived in my whole life. I've lived under
9 the propellers, the jets, the whole shot, and nothing has
10 changed. But nevertheless, it could be transferred to
11 another deal so that the future of the west valley could
12 continue to expand, because it's not going to if they keep
13 controlling the land from the flight patterns. Thank you.

14 COLONEL GREGORY: Bob Brisco of Copper
15 Canyon Ranch HOA.

16 MR. BRISCO: My name is Bob Brisco, and I'm
17 currently the Copper Canyon Ranch HOA President. I just
18 kind of last minute kind stopped down here to make a
19 couple of quick comments.

20 One is we live currently the closest
21 neighborhood north of the air force base. When we moved
22 here with our family about five years ago we thought long
23 and hard about where we were going to move, and took a lot
24 of consideration on the jets. And like I said, we thought
25 long and hard about it. Went back to where we came from

NO-1
cont'd

3115 LU

1 in Chicago and decided to move in this area. We loved it.
2 We like the jets. We actually picked our house where it
3 faces north so I get a better shot of the jets. And I do
4 like that, but I do have some concerns about these jets.

5 One is the sound, you know, I got a 15 and 17-year-old
6 boy, I'm outside quite a bit. I've put my complete life
7 savings down. I'm not the guy that walks away from his
8 house because it's half upside down. I stay, I pay, and
9 support my neighborhood. I have since the day I came in
10 there. But if these jets double in sound or get
11 significantly louder, it could completely devastate our
12 neighborhood.

13 And I hope the government is prepared to
14 back our neighborhood and do whatever is necessary to make
15 it a place that we can raise our family. And I know a lot
16 of people here support that air force base, and we do too,
17 I mean we love it there. But when we moved there five
18 years ago nobody told me F-35s were going to be coming
19 there, and they could be considerably deafening there for
20 us.

21 And I understand the scenario about the pig
22 farm and everything like that, but when the pig farm
23 starts to expand to the point where it's on your back
24 door, and it's so loud, and they didn't tell you that they
25 were going to continually make it grow. So I just hope

EJ-2
NO-18

SO-1

NO-20

NO-20

1 the government is taking the appropriate steps to protect
2 our neighborhood and kids there.

NO-20
cont'd

3 Thank you very much.

4 COLONEL GREGORY: Karen Miller. It states
5 that she is air force retired.

3116 LU

6 MS. MILLER: I want to -- it's M-i-l-l-e-r,
7 Karen. I really appreciate all the comments. I've been
8 in Arizona since 1977. My mother lived in Sun City when I
9 moved here, and the F-4 was flying out of Luke Air Force
10 Base. And that was a noisy machine.

11 I've heard the noise of the jets ever since
12 I have moved here, though I didn't live in Sun City until
13 just recently. I hear the F-16s at night north of my
14 house. I see them come in. I see the lights. I enjoy
15 it. I appreciate it. I know that it can be disturbing.
16 I hear it through my windows. I hear it out in the back
17 yard.

18 Lisa Atkins, who spoke earlier, is a person
19 I have known in Arizona since I have been here in '77. If
20 she tells me the F-35A doesn't sound that much louder than
21 the F-16, then I believe her.

NO-9

22 I believe -- I worked for General Browning
23 at Luke Air Force Base as a reservist during the first
24 Gulf War when we had the F-15 and the F-16. I know what
25 General Browning went through with regard to the noise

1 contours, and in working with people, with the community,
2 to make sure that everything was done where people were
3 informed about the noise contours, and the noise issues
4 were addressed.

5 I appreciate the comments of those people
6 who don't agree with the noise issues here. I thank you
7 for coming, but I want to tell you I support the F-35. I
8 support Luke Air Force Base. I support the United States
9 Air Force, and the United States of America.

GE-3

10 Thank you. Oh, and the state of Arizona.
11 Thank you.

12 COLONEL GREGORY: Charles Scheps.

3117 LU

13 MR. SCHEPS: My name is Charles Scheps,
14 S-c-h-e-p-s. I live up in Surprise.

15 And I remember growing up in New York City I
16 lived probably a couple hundred feet from the elevated
17 subway, which is actually not much more than the size of
18 this auditorium. And actually, my windows were a direct
19 path from the trains. Is the mic still on?

20 In any case, as I said, I had probably a
21 couple hundred feet clear space to the subways to the
22 elevator. And the trains there ran probably about every
23 10 or 15 minutes, 24 hours a day. Bottom line is I got
24 used to it. If I wasn't on the telephone I almost didn't
25 even hear it. As far as I'm concerned, it's a minor

1 inconvenience.

2 I hear the planes going over in Surprise. I
3 still look up whenever I can. Hopefully they're in my
4 sight of view. And I just feel very proud when I see them
5 flying. And I'm in full support of the F-35. Thank you.] GE-3

6 COLONEL GREGORY: Carlyle Rossow.

3118 LU

7 MR. ROSSOW: My name is Carlyle Rossow. As
8 you can tell, we've met before. I was at last night's
9 meeting too.

10 My father was stationed at Luke. He served
11 this country for 23 years. He's a veteran of -- he was a
12 veteran of Vietnam and Korea. I never served, but I have
13 a son who served. That's what this means. He's a Tech P
14 in the United States Air Force. I don't know if anybody
15 knows what that is. But he is a person that is on the
16 ground calling in our fighters to give air strikes. He is
17 in harm's way. Okay. He ain't no -- flying no jets. So
18 this is a very passionate issue for me.

19 Now, it irritates me beyond belief that we
20 are talking about noise when you have people who are
21 putting their lives on the line. That's a little thing.
22 Get ear plugs.

23 Now, if you can't tell, I am 100, 200
24 percent in support of the F-35 being stationed at Luke.] GE-3
25 And if whatever, I'd be happy if there was 1,000 planes

1 there. But whatever they choose to put there, I will be
2 in support of it. In fact, if there was one other way I
3 could support it, some people camp out for rock shows to
4 get a ticket, I'll camp out at Luke until the F-35 is
5 there.] GE-3
cont'd

6 As for noise and stuff, if there's one thing
7 I know about this country, we are a great country,
8 absolutely the best. Where the United States goes the
9 world goes. If noise is going to be a problem, we'll deal
10 with it.

11 I want to thank all the military people that
12 are in this room for your service, retired and active
13 duty. Thank you so much.

14 COLONEL GREGORY: Brian Baker.

3119 LU

15 MR. BAKER: I'm Brian Baker. I live in Sun
16 City. I've lived here eight years.

17 I am an active commercial pilot and flight
18 instructor. And to be perfectly frank, I like airplanes.
19 I have seen airports that have been in existence for many,
20 many years challenged by people who move in later.

21 I have a photograph here of Luke Field AP-6s
22 in 1943. I can't see any towns. I can't see any building
23 development. It's farm land. I started instructing out
24 here in 1957. And I flew over this area. There was still
25 not a lot of building in 1957, so just about everything

1 that's come in since then.

2 I lived up in New Mexico for a while. We
3 had a noise complaint up there. People were complaining
4 about the noise Beachcraft Bonanzas made. You can
5 imagine, for an airport put there before Lindberg. So I
6 think, quite frankly, every time they get a new airplane
7 it's a better airplane, it's a more efficient airplane,
8 does its job better, safer for the crews, and I'd like to
9 see it, and I think we should support the F-35. It's a
10 great airplane. What else can I say?

GE-3

11 COLONEL GREGORY: Well, it's exactly 8:00
12 p.m., and I've heard from everyone who signed up to speak
13 tonight, except for the two that I called who were not
14 here when I called. So let me just do that one more time.
15 Joe Shepherd. Joe Shephard. Terry Collier.

16 All right. Well, that worked out great.
17 Everyone had a chance to speak. Let me just close by
18 saying the air force representatives are still in the back
19 there by those boards to discuss anything you would like
20 to discuss with them.

21 And I want to thank you for your time and
22 interest in this F-35A Training Basing EIS Proposal. And
23 again, tonight is not the end of your opportunity to
24 participate in this process. Written comment sheets are
25 available at the registration table. You can turn the

1 sheets in, mail, fax them later. The mailing address is
2 printed on those sheets.

3 And the air force welcomes comments in
4 writing at any time during the EIS process, but to receive
5 timely consideration, please have those submitted by
6 March 14th, 2012 in the post office box. All right. With
7 that, again, thank you.

8 MS. LAVARRE: We had some comments tonight
9 that there's no difference essentially with respect to
10 noise wise between the F-16 and F-35s and --

11 COLONEL GREGORY: Ma'am, if you would like
12 to add to your comments we can do that over here.

13 With that, it's slightly after 8:00 p.m.
14 now. This hearing is adjourned. Thank you.

15 (Whereupon, after the hearing was adjourned,
16 Ms. Lavarre approached Colonel Gregory.)

3120 LU

17 MS. LAVARRE: This is Lisa Lavarre,
18 L-a-v-a-r-r-e. I have a point of clarification from
19 Colonel Gregory.

20 I would just like Colonel Gregory to
21 possibly correct some information, which I believe I read
22 in newspapers approximately a year, a year and a half ago,
23 concerning the F-35s being stationed at a base in Florida.

GE-21

24 Following studies which were done in
25 Florida, which indicated that sound levels were going to

1 be approximately the same following the placement of these
 2 jets versus prior to the placement of these jets. It is
 3 my understanding, and again, it's only my understanding,
 4 but from having read those articles, which I think were
 5 only two or three, that the population indicated that the
 6 information received was not consistent with their
 7 experience, and they actually asked for the F-35s to be
 8 removed, and did accomplish that after a few months of
 9 inputting into the authorities.

GE-21
cont'd

10 So I wonder if Colonel Gregory could either
 11 confirm or --

12 COLONEL GREGORY: Ma'am, I'm not involved in
 13 the process. I'll have to refer you to one of the air
 14 force reps who is involved in the process.

15 MS. LAVARRE: Colonel Gregory is here today,
 16 basically to inform the public. I'm asking for
 17 information.

18 COLONEL GREGORY: Ma'am, I'm the impartial
 19 moderator of the hearing, and again, I don't know anything
 20 about --

21 MS. LAVARRE: It's not an opinion, and it's
 22 not a matter of like or dislike. It's a matter of fact.

23 COLONEL GREGORY: I don't know anything
 24 about the project, ma'am.

25 MS. LAVARRE: So were F-35s asked to be

GE-21

GE-21
cont'd

1 removed from the base at Florida or not?

2 COLONEL GREGORY: I don't have any idea,
 3 ma'am, I'm not involved in the project.

4 MS. LAVARRE: You're not that informed in
 5 the F-35s?

6 COLONEL GREGORY: I'm not involved in the
 7 project, ma'am.

8 MS. LAVARRE: Because that was a pretty
 9 significant move.

10 COLONEL GREGORY: Anything that you put on
 11 the record will be considered by the decision makers,
 12 so --

13 MS. LAVARRE: The decision maker needs to be
 14 made aware that some of us, some of we, who are closely
 15 involved in this, would prefer having a little bit more
 16 information.

17 And I'm surprised, and I hate to say perhaps
 18 disappointed, that this information is not available right
 19 now, because it's not a matter of opinion or -- other than
 20 -- it's only a matter of asking for confirmation of a
 21 fact, and this should be in the field with which Colonel
 22 Gregory, I respectfully state, should be somewhat familiar
 23 with.

24 COLONEL GREGORY: And again, ma'am, I'll
 25 refer you to the air force representatives who are

1 involved in the project. Thank you.

2 Sir, did you want to make a comment?

3 MS. LAVARRE: And they would be whom?

4 COLONEL GREGORY: All the individuals who
5 are staffing the briefing boards.

6 MS. LAVARRE: So if they don't have the
7 information I can have them come over here and tell you
8 they don't know?

9 COLONEL GREGORY: Ma'am, I'm just referring
10 you to any of the project folks, Mr. Jim Holley who
11 briefed, any of the base representatives, perhaps they
12 could you help you, they're all back there.

13 MS. LAVARRE: So you're in the public
14 relations part of the air force rather than the active
15 Strategic Planning Commission or whatever?

16 COLONEL GREGORY: Ma'am, I'll just clarify
17 for you, and then I'll refer you to the representatives,
18 I'm a judge on the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals,
19 and I'm not involved in this project.

20 MS. LAVARRE: That tells me a lot. I sort
21 of assumed that you perhaps had something to do with the
22 formation of the EIS and whatever else. So thank you, I
23 appreciate that.

24 COLONEL GREGORY: As I said at the
25 beginning, I'm a judge on the Air Force Court of Criminal

1 Appeals, and I'm not involved in the project.

2 MS. LAVARRE: I think I did not hear that.

3 I'm so sorry. I do apologize, then. That question was
4 inappropriately addressed to the Colonel. And I thank you
5 very much.

6 (Proceedings adjourned at 8:10 p.m.)

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D.8.7 Transcript from the Luke Air Force Base Public Hearing Held February 16, 2012, in Gila Bend, Arizona

1 STATE OF ARIZONA.)
2) ss.
3 COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing hearing was
5 taken before me, Leslie Andres, RPR, CR, a Certified
6 Reporter, Certificate 50833, for the State of Arizona; and
7 thereafter reduced to print by computer-aided
8 transcription under my direction; that the foregoing pages
9 are a full, true and accurate transcript of all
10 proceedings and testimony had and adduced upon the taking
11 of said deposition, all done to the best of my skill and
12 ability.

13 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way related to
14 nor employed by any of the parties hereto, nor am I in any
15 way interested in the outcome hereof.

16 DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 25th day of
17 February, 2012.

18 
19 _____
20 Leslie Andres, CR, RPR
21 Certified Reporter
22
23
24
25

U.S. AIR FORCE PUBLIC HEARING

Held Before Hearing Officer
COLONEL RONALD GREGORY

Gila Bend, Arizona

February 16, 2012

Open House Information Session
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Presentation/Formal Comment Session
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Prepared by:
LESLIE ANDRES, CR, RPR
Certificate No. 50833

1 the table to take your statement if you decide you want to
2 comment after we recess the hearing. If you want to add
3 something later to your oral comments, or if you would
4 rather not speak here tonight, you can submit written
5 comments at any time up to March 14, 2012, as long as
6 they're postmarked by that date they're on time. There's
7 no page limit on written comments. And the air force
8 gives equal weight to oral and written comments. Both
9 become part of the official record, and are included in
10 the Final EIS.

11 Just a few reminders before we get started.
12 First, please limit your comments to the Draft EIS. That
13 is the purpose of this public comment period.

14 Second, if you agree with the previous
15 speaker on something, you can certainly say that, but you
16 don't need to use up your time repeating it since it's
17 already in the record.

18 Finally, as I mentioned earlier, this isn't
19 a Q and A session, it's an opportunity for you to put on
20 the record your views and your concerns about the proposal
21 that you want the decision makers to consider. Questions
22 that you pose during your comments will become a part of
23 the record and will be considered.

24 After we're done with the formal part of
25 this, the air force reps will continue to be available to

1 discuss things with you back by those various boards.

2 And with that, I'll call our first speaker,
3 State Senator John Nelson. Senator Nelson.

4 SENATOR NELSON: Good evening. I am here as ^{3121 LU}
5 Senator John Nelson. And I was here about six years ago
6 as Representative Nelson when we did the appeal that we
7 had here. So I worked with a lot of folks in developing
8 that in preparation of what we had with the F-16, but also
9 for what's going on today with the F-35.

10 The other issue that you need to know about,
11 is that I'm here as a Senator from District 12. I will be
12 also with the redistricting, hopefully with the senator
13 from District 13, which will include this area.

14 And it's important that I get to know what
15 you feel out of this from this hearing. Now, I have been
16 involved with this process over the years, and have
17 developed most of the legislation, key legislation at
18 Luke, and to support the other military bases in the
19 state.

20 But certainly, as an aside, we used to live
21 next to the Illinois Central Railroad. And if anybody
22 knows what that is, the noise out of that, we were
23 probably about a block away, and the noise we got living
24 there compared to the noise I now hear off the end of the
25 Luke field, and I live within a mile, mile and a half of

1 Luke, I live south of Camelback and just west of the --
2 east of the end of the southwest runway. It's minimal.
3 We sleep at night. It doesn't bother us.

4 And the greatest thing in the world is
5 listening to the sound of freedom as jets are taking off.
6 And you will get it in the evening when they do their
7 night training, you'll get it in the daytime, and I see no
8 reason why people should worry about the noise
9 differentials.

NO-9

10 I've been to Dallas. We've seen the F-35
11 over there. I didn't get to hear them fly. But the noise
12 contour studies and that would indicate that there's very
13 much a similarity between that and the noise contours that
14 we had at Luke, which is they were developed on the F-16
15 and the 15, which is a combination. And within those
16 noise contours, and what we hear, particularly at the air
17 shows, the noise is not that unbearable.

NO-9

18 So I'm here to support not only Luke, I'm
19 here to say that the F-35 would be a great asset to not
20 only Arizona, but to Luke Air Force Base. We already have
21 them at NCS in Yuma. And that the noise contours should
22 not be anything to worry about. I support it. It's the
23 best thing that we have going for us. And this is
24 something that we need to continue, not only the country
25 and the military, but also the support for the air force,

GE-3

1 and keep that going as we approach maybe a new practice
2 coming up.

3 So with that, I support Luke. I don't know
4 about you, but I support the base and its mission. And I
5 think we can live with a little more noise. Thank you.

GE-3

6 COLONEL GREGORY: Thank you. Mayor Henry.

3122 LU

7 MAYOR HENRY: H-e-n-r-y. My name is Ron
8 Henry, and I'm mayor of Gila Bend. I'm proud to say our
9 entire council supports Luke Air Force Base 100 percent.
10 We're used to noise, and bring it on. Thank you.

GE-3

11 COLONEL GREGORY: Mayor Jackie Meck of
12 Buckeye.

3123 LU

13 MAYOR MECK: My name is Jackie Meck,
14 M-e-c-k, of Buckeye. I was born in Buckeye, Arizona.
15 Buckeye is in the flight path of Luke aircraft, flying the
16 Goldwater Training Range, located here at Gila Bend.

17 I am currently the town mayor of the town of
18 Buckeye. I'm serving my third term on the town council.
19 The town requires some developers to provide CC&Rs,
20 noticing noise and over flights of aircraft at the time of
21 purchasing a residence.

22 I have lived under the quote, sound of
23 freedom, unquote, my entire life. I totally support the
24 outstanding men and women of Luke Air Force Base. I have
25 heard the sound beginning with the propeller driven

1 aircraft of the 1940s and the 1950s, to the jet fighters
2 of today.

3 The west valley is fortunate to have the
4 base, Goldwater Range, and economic development, along
5 with the revenue generated by the operations.

6 The Arizona Congressional Delegation should
7 support the F-35 to Luke. Again, I totally support the
8 F-16 aircraft that are currently based here. And I am in
9 total support of F-35 coming to Luke Air Force Base, along
10 with the addition of the supporting air force personnel.

GE-3

11 Thank you.

12 COLONEL GREGORY: Marchelle Franklin, city
13 of Phoenix Aviation Department.

3124 LU

14 MS. FRANKLIN: Good evening, everyone. My
15 name is Marchelle Franklin, F-r-a-n-k-l-i-n.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to speak
17 before you this evening on behalf of city of Phoenix
18 council woman, Velda Williams, and the city of Phoenix
19 Aviation Department.

20 I served as the deputy aviation director for
21 Community Development and Government Relations. And on
22 behalf of the city of Phoenix, we are in strong support of
23 Luke Air Force Base as a preferred site for the F-35A
24 training program.

GE-3

25 Luke Air Force Base and Phoenix Sky Harbor

1 International Airport are the two largest users of the
2 airspace in central Arizona. We have an excellent
3 relationship, which we are proud of, with the base. And
4 Luke is one of our strongest partners to address the joint
5 needs of civilian and military aviation.

6 As part of this commitment to Luke, some of
7 you may be aware that the city of Phoenix has purchased
8 property near the base to protect it from encroachment, so
9 that Luke can continue to serve the needs of our national
10 defense system.

11 Finally, we support the mission as a
12 critical training facility for the air force and the F-35
13 program. And the city of Phoenix is committed to Luke's
14 long-term viability.

GE-3

15 Thank you for allowing me to speak this
16 evening on behalf of Phoenix city councilwoman, Velda
17 Williams, and the City of Phoenix Aviation Department.
18 Thank you again.

19 COLONEL GREGORY: Thank you. Mr. Harry
20 Moser.

3125 LU

21 MR. MOSER: Good evening, everybody. My
22 name is Hank Moser. My name is Harry, but they call me
23 Hank Moser.

24 I'm a World War II veteran. And I love the
25 air force, although I'm army. I was with General Patton

1 in World War II. And our boys at the air force saved my
2 life and many lives. I want to thank them for it, and 100
3 percent support the F-35A to come here.

GE-3

4 I have a cousin that was a fighter pilot on
5 the P-38 that lost his life in Europe. I've had nephews
6 in the Air force, and I've been military all my life.
7 Thank you. People of Gila Bend, and people of the United
8 States, should appreciate an outfit like we have here to
9 train their boys to protect them. Thank you very much.

10 COLONEL GREGORY: Thank you, Sergeant Moser,
11 for your service in World War II.

12 Mr. Richard Hopkins.

3126 LU

13 MR. HOPKINS: H-o-p-k-i-n-s. I'm Richard
14 Hopkins from Buckeye. And it's my privilege to serve as
15 the senior member of the Buckeye only school district
16 governing board, although I'm here on behalf of myself and
17 my family, but I know they would approve of what I'm going
18 to say.

19 A little background. My father was drafted
20 in the Army Air Corps in World War II. He survived 35
21 missions as a tail gunner on the B-17, including 30 on
22 D-Day alone. He earned the Silver Star, two Purple
23 Hearts, five Distinguished Flying Crosses, and seven Air
24 Metals. When the country didn't need him, he went home to
25 Colorado. When Luke came back on board in 1951, the air

1 force said "We need you" so he came out here.

2 I was born in Phoenix during the time he was
3 at Luke. The seven years I went to elementary school, I
4 went to seven different elementary schools, so I've seen a
5 lot of bases and a lot of airplanes. We lived two miles
6 up into the runway at Castle Air Force Base, the home of
7 those beautiful eight engine B-52s. And what a sight that
8 was to see to take off, to land on the grass and watch
9 them refuel up in the air.

10 I came to Buckeye in 1965. My mother still
11 lives in the house that they bought about six miles
12 directly off the runway from Luke. I have seen the planes
13 from the F-100s and the F-16s. And my father found it
14 quite ironic that after he retired, he went to work for
15 Lockheed at Luke teaching the German Air Force how to fly
16 F-104 fighters.

17 The only time I hear airplanes flying over
18 anymore is on an overcast day. And that's because the
19 noise reflects down from the clouds. And all it is is a
20 noise. It's not something that we would all hear
21 constantly, like that thump, thump, thump of that kid's
22 stereo of the car next to us that he calls music, not the
23 100 decibels of your motorcycle when you go out riding in
24 the river bottom, or the 110 decibels of your power saw
25 when you finally build the wife that closet shelf. It's

NO-9

1 definitely not the 115 decibels for two hours at a rock
2 concert. It's not the 95 decibels of a noise of a train
3 either.

4 And if you travel a lot, like I do, the
5 selling point in Pima, Flagstaff, Winslow, Holbook and
6 Williams is stay at our hotel, there's no training noise.
7 The F-16s produce 83 decibels. The F-35A will be 90 with
8 that big engine. I mean what's the difference between a
9 Pinto and a Mustang? And I have a couple more later.

10 Thank you.

11 COLONEL GREGORY: Okay. We'll probably have
12 time. Mr. Troy Chubb-Rovey of Flying Rovey Farms.

13 MR. CHUBB-ROVEY: Good evening, everybody.
14 My name is Troy Rovey-Chubb. And I represent the Flying
15 Rovey Farms out of Buckeye, Arizona.

16 Colonel, congratulations on your 3,000 acres
17 up there at Luke. We got you beat. We got a little over
18 four between Buckeye, Yuma, to include the northern border
19 of your fence line there at the Goldwater Range.

20 We just want to support the F-35. And we
21 also want to support more air frames, if possible, to
22 attract to the area than just the F-35. We all fly around
23 in our little Cessnas between little farms, so we cover
24 some territory too.

25 And we also want to support lower

NO-9
con't

3127 LU

GE-3

GE-13

1 restrictions, or no flight decks or lower flight decks, we
2 would like. And we would also like no or lower
3 restrictions on air speed. So supersonic flight, low
4 level supersonic flight, if possible, we might support.
5 If it were midnight we wouldn't mind it. And we can all
6 recharge and we keep up-to-date on it. So the charts and
7 whatever airspace you need to get the mission done and
8 expand the mission, we will abide by it.

9 COLONEL GREGORY: Mr. Earl Runte. Mr.
10 Runte.

11 MR. RUNTE: I'm Earl Runte, R-u-n-t-e. And
12 I live in Glendale. Those of you who know me I can't
13 clear my throat in three minutes, but we'll try to see.

14 First of all, this is the best crowd I've
15 seen in Gila Bend for something to do with the air force
16 since I've been involved with it for about the last
17 15 years, going back to Colonel White.

18 I think we covered the noise thing pretty
19 much. And our property, the one that I'm most interested
20 in, is attached to the paper plant, and we're right off
21 the end of the runway. And I served on the joint land use
22 study committee. A lot of people still contact me through
23 the Department of Defense or complex, rather, and so on.
24 But I hear the comments primarily from people in the
25 neighborhood of the areas that say "Boy, are we glad to

GE-13
con't

3128 LU

1 hear the planes." These are people who went through the
2 time when the air base was pretty much shut down.

3 The one thing that I want to encourage you,
4 first of all, we had a property that was just covered with
5 old ordinants, drums full of oil. It was condemned, and
6 so on and so forth.

7 And because the air force listened to us,
8 and because Colonel Eukin (ph. sp.) and Major Garcia and
9 people like that listened to what we had, the ordinants
10 people got together, looked at what we had, and just shook
11 their heads and said "This shouldn't be."

12 And on about the first of January 2006, I
13 got a call from a colonel. He said "Earl, we're going to
14 be on your property the 5th of January, and we're going to
15 either blow up those bombs," there were 105 live bombs,
16 "or we're going to haul them away." They came and hauled
17 it away, clean, everything is great. Tremendous
18 responsibility.

19 Senator Nelson has been a great help to us
20 in this state. What I'm encouraging you to do, at the
21 bottom of your comments sheet there's a website you can go
22 to, and all of this information can be pulled up on your
23 Internet. And I don't know how many folks you have with
24 the CD, it's also on CD.

25 But I am so impressed with the amount of --

1 now, the one thing that I was looking forward is what's
2 the economic thing here? There's going to be
3 \$200 million, providing we go to L6, which I'm sure we're
4 going to go.

5 But there's going to be \$200 million spent
6 on infrastructure. There's going to be 7,000 more
7 employees than what we have now. And you all know we have
8 a lot of employees right here in Gila Bend now. So be
9 sure and go on that, pull this information up, go through
10 it and see where Gila Bend is in particular. Now that
11 we've got El Mirage on base, I was there the other night,
12 they're 100 percent going with us. So we're getting a lot
13 of help. Thank you so much.

GE-3

14 COLONEL GREGORY: Thank you. Glendy Massey.

15 MS. MASSEY: My name is Glenda Massey,
16 M-a-s-s-e-y. My husband, James, owns the Massey Truck
17 Repair. They work on the tankers from Luke Air Force
18 Base, also the fire department here in Gila Bend and Luke.
19 So we have a business interest in Luke Air
20 Force Base, but also, we live about two, two and a half
21 miles just directly west of the end of the flight pattern
22 on take-off of Luke Air Force Base.

3129 LU

23 And when 9-11 came, after that, I had such a
24 warm feeling in my heart, knowing that these people were
25 out there flying, training, risking their lives for my

1 safety. And I really support all the noise. They don't
2 make anymore noise than our bulldog, Winston, did when
3 they snore at night. So I sleep -- I do notice sometimes
4 at night I hear a plane, I hear it one time, I don't hear
5 it anymore. You just don't hear it. It's just a great
6 comforting thing.

7 And I support the air force in all, whatever
8 they want to do. Thank you.] GE-3

9 COLONEL GREGORY: Thank you, ma'am. Was
10 there anybody who wanted to speak who's not yet signed up?
11 All right.

12 As promised, is there anyone -- we have
13 plenty of time left. Is there anyone who would like to
14 add to their remarks?

15 Sir, you had some more points. Again, if
16 you come back up, just so it's clear on the record, could
17 you state your last name for our court reporter?

18 MR. HOPKINS: H-o-p-k-i-n-s. I'm sorry,
19 sometimes when I read in the dark my eyes water.

3126 LU

20 When you move next to an air force base you
21 know there's going to be plane noise. When you move near
22 farms, you know there's going to be dust. You move near a
23 dairy, and there will be that unique smell that most of my
24 friends say smells exactly like money. You move into
25 downtown Scottsdale, and you have the sounds of that

1 bustling night life to keep you awake all night.

2 Our state depends upon Luke Air Force Base
3 in many ways. To lose that economic impact at any time
4 would be hard to overcome, but at these times it would be
5 devastating.

6 Regardless of which planes have been at Luke
7 over the years, how much or how little noise there is, we
8 all benefit from it economically.

9 The greatest benefit of having Luke Air
10 Force Base is that as long as it is here, we have the
11 freedom to come together in a forum such as this, to
12 discuss these things without fear for our safety.

13 The men and women that have received their
14 training at Luke over the past years have given freely of
15 their lives to help ensure our freedoms and our lives to
16 live as we want to live. We must always remember that in
17 our free society the needs of the many outweigh the needs
18 of the few.

19 Just as I'm sure our friend Hank here, my
20 father never considered himself a hero, he did what his
21 country asked him to do to help maintain our way of life.
22 He was laid to rest on the eleventh day of the eleventh
23 hour of the eleventh month in 2009 with full military
24 honors.

25 Let's be prepared for the next time that our

1 nation needs our young men and women to do what we must
2 do, to maintain our way of life, and let's please ensure
3 that that is done with Luke Air Force Base Training F-35
4 air crew. On behalf of my family, thank you.

GE-3

5 COLONEL GREGORY: Is there anyone else to
6 add to their remarks?

7 Well, as I said, Ms. Andres and I will
8 continue to remain at the table. If you change your mind
9 and would like to make a statement, just come up to the
10 table, we will turn the machine on, and we'll record the
11 statement for you.

12 Before I recess the hearing, let me just
13 give you some concluding remarks about this. The air
14 force representatives will continue to be available by the
15 boards to discuss things with you.

16 I want to thank you for your time and
17 interest in the F-35A Training Basing EIS Proposal. And
18 remind you that tonight is not the end of your opportunity
19 to participate in this environmental review process.
20 Written comment sheets are available at the registration
21 table in the back. You can turn these in tonight, take
22 them with you, and fill them out later, and mail or fax
23 them. The mailing address and fax number I believe is on
24 the sheets. The air force welcomes public comments in
25 writing at any time during the Environmental Impact

1 Analysis process. To receive timely consideration, please
2 get those comments in by March 14, 2012.

3 And at this time, it's well before
4 8:00 p.m., so I'm going to recess the hearing. And again,
5 if you change your mind and would like to make a
6 statement, all you have to do is come up to the table and
7 we'll get the statement for you. Thank you very much.

8 Yes, ma'am.

3130 LU

9 MS. GOEBEL: I want to take advantage of
10 your offer. My name is Heather Goebel, G-o-e-b-e-l, and I
11 speak on behalf of the Gila Bend Chamber of Commerce and
12 the library -- scratch the library. That's my employer,
13 they may not like that -- Chamber of Commerce.

14 And I'm hoping there will be lots of
15 spill-over for this community in Gila Bend, not just for
16 Luke. We want there to be a nice economic impact here in
17 town where we need it, where our property level is about
18 60 percent, not just at Luke. We need it here, please.
19 Thank you very much.

GE-3

20 COLONEL GREGORY: Thank you.

21 (Hearing adjourned at 8:00 p.m.)
22
23
24
25

1 STATE OF ARIZONA.)
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA) ss.

3 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing deposition
4 was taken before me, Leslie Andres, RPR, CR, a Certified
5 Reporter, Certificate 50833, for the State of Arizona; and
6 thereafter reduced to print by computer-aided
7 transcription under my direction; that pursuant to
8 request, that the foregoing pages are a full, true and
9 accurate transcript of all proceedings and testimony had
10 and adduced upon the taking of said deposition, all done
11 to the best of my skill and ability.

12 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way related to
13 nor employed by any of the parties hereto nor am I in any
14 way interested in the outcome hereof.

15 DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 25th day of
16 February, 2012.

17 
18 _____
19 Leslie Andres, CR, RPR
20 Certified Reporter
21
22
23
24
25

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D.8.8 Transcript from the Tucson International Airport Air Guard Station Public Hearing Held February 21, 2012, in Sierra Vista, Arizona

Page 1

U.S. AIR FORCE F-35A TRAINING BASING EIS

PUBLIC HEARING/PUBLIC COMMENTS
BEFORE HEARING OFFICER
COLONEL BRAD ROAN

SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA
FEBRUARY 21, 2012
6:00 P.M.

Reported By: Kimberley W. Gauthier
Certified Reporter
Certification No. 50767

Peterson Reporting, Video & Litigation Services

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Peterson Reporting, Video & Litigation Services

1 THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT
2 SESSION was taken on February 21, 2012, commencing at
3 6:00 p.m., at the Windemere Hotel & Conference Center,
4 2047 South Highway 92, Sierra Vista, Arizona, before
5 Kimberley W. Gauthier, a Certified Reporter in the
6 State of Arizona.

7 * * *

8 A P P E A R A N C E S

9
10 COLONEL BRAD ROAN
11 United States Air Force
12 Judge of Criminal Appeals in Washington, D.C.
13 Hearing Officer
14
15 COLONEL MICHAEL MCGUIRE
16 Commander, 162nd Fighter Wing
17 Tucson Air Guard Station
18
19 LIEUTENANT COLONEL JON WHEELER
20 Flight Instructor
21 Air Education and Training Command
22
23 KIM FORNOF
24 Air Education and Training Command
25 Project Manager, F-35A Training Basing EIS

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 COLONEL ROAN: Ladies and gentlemen, if
3 everybody could find their seats, we're about ready to
4 begin. Thank you.

5 Good evening. I'm Colonel Brad Roan.
6 I'll be the hearing officer for tonight. I'd like to
7 thank everyone for coming out this evening to the
8 public hearing to discuss the F-35A training basing
9 environmental impact statement.

10 I am a judge on the Air Force Court of
11 Criminal Appeals in Washington DC. As one of my
12 duties, I assist with hearings like this. I don't
13 work for anyone in Tucson, at the Air Guard Station or
14 the Air Education and Training Command. I'm not
15 involved in any way with the development of the draft
16 EIS, and I do not act as legal advisor to the Air
17 Force representatives working on this proposal. My
18 role in this hearing tonight is simply to be an
19 impartial moderator, to ensure that we have a fair,
20 orderly and impartial hearing where you have the
21 opportunity to make comments on the proposal.

22 Tonight's hearing is being transcribed
23 verbatim by Mrs. Kim Gauthier, who is seated next to
24 me. We're here this evening because the Air Force is
25 analyzing the environmental impacts of the proposed

1 establishment of a pilot training center with F-35A
2 training aircraft. The hearing is held in the
3 accordance with the provisions of the National
4 Environmental Policy Act, also known as NEPA, and
5 regulations published by the Council on Environmental
6 Quality.

7 The purpose of the hearing is to
8 receive your comments on the draft EIS. Tonight's
9 hearing is just one of several opportunities for
10 public comment. Please keep in mind that the hearing
11 is not a debate; it's not a vote on the draft EIS, and
12 it's not a question-and-answer session. The hearing
13 is an opportunity for you to express your views and
14 concerns about the adequacy of the environmental
15 analysis and the potential environmental impacts
16 associated with the proposal, as well as any issues
17 related to NEPA and the National Historic Preservation
18 Act process. Comments about other unrelated issues
19 will not assist in the decision-making process.

20 Now, during the first part of the
21 hearing, Air Force representatives will provide you
22 with the information about the project and the
23 environmental impact analysis process. We have with
24 us tonight Colonel McGuire from the Tucson Air Guard
25 Station, from the the Air Force's Air Education and

1 Training Command, Lieutenant Colonel John Wheeler and
2 Ms. Kim Fornof.

3 Now, if it looks as though I'm reading
4 to you, it's because, well, I am and we will. I
5 apologize for that, but we prepare the presentations
6 in writing to ensure that we cover everything for you.

7 Also, we do have a representative from
8 the government affairs office at the Tucson
9 Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Robert Medler.

10 Now, after the briefings we'll move to
11 the second part of the hearing to take comments from
12 those who would like to make a statement on the record
13 here tonight. Your comments, both written and oral,
14 will provide the decision-makers the benefit of your
15 knowledge of the local area and your concerns about
16 the environmental analysis.

17 I'll now turn the presentation over to
18 Colonel McGuire from the Tucson Air Guard Station.

19 COLONEL MCGUIRE: Good evening and
20 thank you for coming out. My name is Colonel McGuire.
21 I am the commander of the 162nd Fighter Wing at the
22 Tucson Air Guard Station. On behalf of the United
23 States Air Force and the Arizona Air National Guard, I
24 would like to welcome you to the public hearings for
25 the F-35A Basing Environmental Impact Statement, or

1 the EIS.

2 Hopefully you've had the opportunity to
3 talk to many knowledgeable experts staffing the poster
4 stations and to learn more about the Air Force's
5 proposal, which is to establish a pilot training
6 center with the F-35A aircraft at one or more Air
7 Force or Air National Guard installations. Four
8 alternative locations are evaluated in the EIS, one
9 being the Tucson Air Guard Station.

10 Let's begin by reviewing the agenda for
11 tonight. I'll give a brief overview of the Tucson Air
12 Guard Station. Lieutenant Colonel Wheeler will
13 discuss the F-35A training program and management.
14 And finally, Ms. Kim Fornof will provide an overview
15 of the environmental impact analysis process and the
16 results specific to the Tucson Air Guard Station.

17 The last item on the agenda is the most
18 important. The public comment section is your
19 opportunity to provide information and make statements
20 for the record. This is one of three public hearings
21 the Air Force is holding near the Tucson Air Guard
22 Station. The Air Force is holding a total of 13
23 public hearings to ensure the public has ample
24 opportunity to learn about and comment on the F-35A
25 Basing EIS.

1 Before we tell you about the
2 comprehensive EIS analysis process, I would like to
3 first give you an overview of the Tucson Air Guard
4 Station, our mission and operations.

5 The Tucson Air Guard Station is home to
6 the Air National Guard's premier F-16 pilot training
7 unit, the 162nd Fighter Wing. The station is located
8 on the northwest grounds of Tucson International
9 Airport and shares use of the runways, security and
10 fire control with the airport authority. With three
11 flying squadrons, the 162nd is the largest Air
12 National Guard fighter wing in the country.

13 Since its activation in 1956, the wing
14 fulfills dual federal and state missions by preparing
15 units for combat and supporting emergency relief
16 operations. The wing has more than 42 years
17 experience in fighter training, with more than 22
18 years in international military training, and has
19 trained pilots from more than 25 countries. Since
20 1969, the wing has graduated more than 6,800 fighter
21 pilots.

22 Approximately 1,440 people work at the
23 Tucson Air Guard Station, including both full and
24 part-time employees, as well as traditional Air
25 National Guardsmen. This figure depicts the training

1 airspace and ranges regularly used by the Tucson Air
 2 Guard Station. Its training air space includes
 3 military operating areas, military training routes,
 4 restricted areas, air-traffic-control assigned air
 5 space. It also includes the Barry M. Goldwater
 6 training air space. This map is available in the
 7 handouts you received tonight.

8 As part of our ongoing operations and
 9 activities, we implement a variety of protective
 10 measures to minimize impacts on our region and
 11 environment from training activities. We're proud of
 12 these efforts and our achievements. Because of the
 13 many attributes that the Tucson Air Guard Station
 14 offers, our installation is one of four under
 15 consideration for the siting of the F-35A pilot
 16 training center.

17 I will now turn the presentation over
 18 to Lieutenant Colonel Wheeler to discuss the F-35A
 19 program and training management.

20 LIEUTENANT COLONEL WHEELER: Thank you,
 21 Colonel McGuire. My name is Lieutenant Colonel John
 22 Wheeler. I'm a flight instructor with the Air
 23 Education and Training Command. The F-35A aircraft is
 24 an outcome of the Joint Strike Fighter Program, which
 25 is a joint multinational program among the United

1 States Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and nine
 2 international partners. The Joint Strike Fighter
 3 Program merged several independent government projects
 4 working on next-generation strike aircraft. The goal
 5 was to build an affordable universal fighter that
 6 would meet the needs of all participants.

7 Three versions of the strike fighter
 8 were developed to meet the varying operational needs
 9 of the military services. The Air Force version of
 10 the aircraft is the F-35A, which is the conventional
 11 take-off and landing model of the F-35.

12 The F-35A is absolutely essential to
 13 the nation's security strategy. It is the newest and
 14 most advanced fifth-generation fighter and is needed
 15 to deter and defeat 21st century threats. The F-35A
 16 is intended to be the Air Force's premier strike
 17 aircraft through the first half of the 21st century,
 18 offering low visibility, close- and long-range
 19 air-to-ground and air-to-air capability, enhanced
 20 precision strike capability and sophisticated
 21 electronic warfare capabilities. The multifaceted
 22 F-35A would fulfill the wide range of roles and
 23 missions currently conducted by F-16 and A-10
 24 aircraft, and would complement the F-22 aircraft.

25 The F-35A is more effective than

1 current fighter aircraft in the air-to-ground combat,
2 air-to-air combat, reconnaissance and suppression of
3 enemy air defenses, and has a better range while
4 requiring less logistical support. Features of the
5 aircraft that make it a cutting edge aircraft are low
6 visibility, supportability and weapons. The F-35A is
7 designed to cost less to operate and support in
8 comparable current generation aircraft.

9 The Air Force has evaluated the
10 potential environment impacts associated with the
11 proposed basing of F-35A training aircraft. For more
12 information about the environmental impact analysis,
13 process and findings, I will turn the presentation
14 over to Ms. Kim Fornof.

15 MS. FORNOF: Thank you, Lieutenant
16 Colonel Wheeler. My name is Kim Fornof, with the Air
17 Education Training Command speaking to you regarding
18 the F-35A Training Basing Environmental Impact
19 Statement.

20 The draft EIS was prepared by the Air
21 Force to comply with the National Environmental Policy
22 Act, or NEPA. The draft EIS is an important part of
23 the Air Force's overall commitment to environmental
24 stewardship. The EIS was initiated in December, 2009.
25 An early part of the EIS process included 23 public

1 scoping meetings, six of which were held in the Tucson
2 region to enable the public to provide input on the
3 proposed action, the alternatives under consideration,
4 and environmental resources and issues to be analyzed.

5 Governmental agencies, elected
6 officials, tribes, community and environmental
7 organizations, as well as individuals were encouraged
8 to submit comments throughout the scoping period. The
9 comments received were considered in preparation of
10 this draft EIS.

11 The draft EIS is the result of
12 extensive analysis and consideration of public and
13 agency comments received during the scoping period.
14 It is a complex and comprehensive document, so I would
15 like to provide an overview of what is included in the
16 findings. A no-action alternative and a proposed
17 action are analyzed in the draft EIS.

18 NEPA requires federal agencies to
19 consider a no-action alternative when preparing an
20 EIS. Under the no-action alternative, the
21 establishment of a pilot training center and basing of
22 F-35A aircraft would not take place. At each
23 alternative location, the no-action alternative
24 constitutes baseline or current conditions, and allows
25 the decision-makers to compare the magnitude of the

1 effects of no action to the effects of the proposed
2 action.

3 As mentioned earlier, the proposed
4 action is to establish a pilot training center with
5 associated basing of F-35A training aircraft at one or
6 more Air Force or Air National Guard installations.
7 Installations with adequate military airspace and
8 facilities are needed to accommodate the training of
9 F-35A pilots and personnel. Training would include
10 the use of flare countermeasures and supersonic
11 flight, as permitted in authorized airspace. Training
12 would also include the use of munitions at approved
13 military ranges and the use of axillary airfields to
14 diversify training.

15 The Air Force evaluated four basing
16 locations in the draft EIS. Each location is an
17 alternative for the purpose of this EIS. The
18 alternative locations are Boise Air Guard Station in
19 Idaho, Holloman Air Force base in New Mexico, Luke Air
20 Force base in Arizona and Tucson International Airport
21 Air Guard Station.

22 The Air Force evaluated the potential
23 environmental impacts of establishing the F35-A pilot
24 training center and aircraft training squadrons at
25 each of these alternate locations. The Air Force

1 analyzed the impacts of basing in increments of 24
2 aircraft and from 24 to 144 aircraft, depending on
3 capacity of the candidate installation.

4 Currently, the Air Force preferred
5 alternative is to base the pilot training center with
6 72 F-35A training aircraft at Luke Air Force Base.
7 However, no decisions regarding the proposal will be
8 made until after the environmental impact analysis
9 process is complete.

10 The environmental analysis for Tucson
11 Air Guard Station was conducted using three aircraft
12 basing scenarios. As part of the analysis, the Air
13 force assessed basing between 24 and 72 F-35A training
14 aircraft at Tucson Air Guard Station, as shown in the
15 aircraft basing scenario table. All scenarios reflect
16 the relocation of the F-16 training mission. Basing
17 scenarios T2 and T3 assume the relocation of the Dutch
18 F-16 training mission currently housed at Tucson Air
19 Guard Station. Again, this information is provided in
20 the printed materials you receive tonight.

21 F-35A flight training activities at
22 Tucson Air Guard stations would take place in existing
23 military airspace and ranges. No modifications to
24 airspace would be required, and proposed training
25 activities would be consistent with existing airspace

1 operations.

2 The Air Force analyzed potential
3 environmental consequences associated with changes in
4 personnel, construction or renovation of facilities,
5 as well as new training activities in existing
6 military airspace, ranges and at Libby Air Force
7 auxiliary airfield.

8 Specific resource categories evaluated
9 in the environmental impact statement are listed here.
10 Extensive details about the evaluation of each of
11 these resource areas can be found in the draft EIS and
12 in the summary fact sheet distributed here tonight.
13 Public comments received during the scoping period
14 conducted in 2010 mainly concentrated on potential
15 noise impacts on the community. So we would like to
16 spend additional time on that topic here.

17 This is a noise contour map for areas
18 surrounding Tucson Air Guard Station identifying
19 baseline conditions, as well as each aircraft basing
20 scenario. The blue line indicates baseline or current
21 conditions of 65 F-16 aircraft, and the subsequent
22 contours represent the three aircraft basing
23 scenarios. The noise contours reflect the 65-decibel
24 day-night average sound level, or DNL, which is a
25 sound level averaged over a 24-hour period, with an

1 adjustment for late-night noises.

2 65 decibel DNL is a threshold above
3 which certain land uses, such as residential, are not
4 considered compatible with the Federal Aviation
5 administration, or the Air Force, without measures to
6 ensure that the interior noise level goals are met.

7 The Air Force analyzed the noise
8 effects associated with training activities on human
9 annoyance and health, physical effects on structures,
10 and biological land use, socioeconomic and cultural
11 resources. Sound levels were analyzed for noise
12 sensitive locations, which include local schools,
13 hospitals and places of worship.

14 The methodology used to assess and
15 quantify noise impacts is more thoroughly described in
16 the draft EIS, and we encourage you to review it in
17 greater detail.

18 The analysis indicates that under
19 baseline conditions, 407 off-installation residents
20 are currently affected by noise levels greater than
21 65-decibel DNL. Under the various basing scenarios,
22 the number of off-installation residents affected by
23 noise level greater than 65-decible DNL would increase
24 by approximately 1,500 residents to 8,100 residents.
25 A small percentage of F-35A aircraft operations would

1 occur after 10:00 p.m. As a result, the likelihood of
2 sleep disturbance averaged among the locations studied
3 would increase by 8 to 10 percent under the basing
4 scenarios.

5 As shown previously, this is a map of
6 the training airspace and ranges regularly used here
7 at Tucson Air Guard Station. F-35A training
8 operations would increase subsonic noise levels on
9 areas under training airspace. Noise created by
10 aircraft exceeding the speed of sound or going
11 supersonic would decrease under all basing scenarios.
12 Noise impacts from live- and inert-munitions training
13 at the Barry M. Goldwater range are not expected to be
14 significant. The Air Force would continue to adhere
15 to all existing FAA and local avoidance procedures,
16 flight restrictions and scheduling adjustments.

17 The EIS also provides detailed noise
18 analysis for the Libby Air Force auxiliary airfield
19 which would serve as an auxiliary airfield for
20 training aircraft. The noise contour map shown here
21 reflects the potential noise impacts from F-35A
22 training aircraft on areas surrounding Libby. The
23 noise contours are contained within the boundary of
24 Fort Huachuca; therefore, no off-installation
25 populations or acreage are affected by noise levels

1 greater than 65-decibel DNL.

2 At this time, the Air Force has
3 completed the first three steps of the NEPA process.
4 We are now at the fourth step, providing the draft EIS
5 for public review and comment. This phase is an
6 essential part of the NEPA process, because it allows
7 you, the public, to review the draft EIA and comment
8 on the Air Force's analysis of potential environmental
9 effects. We encourage you to provide your input here
10 tonight or by March 14th, so that it can be considered
11 for incorporation in the final EIS.

12 The Air Force is committed to keeping
13 the community informed throughout the NEPA process.
14 In addition to holding these public hearings, the Air
15 Force has established a website to make it easier for
16 you to find and review environmental documents. The
17 draft EIS is posted on the website, as well as
18 additional F-35A program information. You may also
19 review a hard copy of the draft EIS by visiting one of
20 the five public libraries listed in the NEPA handout
21 you receive tonight.

22 Comments on the draft EIS may be
23 provided orally or in writing here tonight, or by fax,
24 e-mail, or mailing written comments to this address.
25 All of this information is provided on the comment

1 form and on the project website.
2 This concludes the briefing part of the
3 hearing. Thank you for your attention. I'll turn it
4 over to Colonel Roan.

5 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, Kim. All
6 right. We'll now move on to the public comment part
7 of the hearing. This is how that will work: I'll use
8 the speaker sign-up cards that those of you who want
9 to speak may have filled out. And then I'll ask those
10 folks to come up to the mic -- and I currently have
11 only received one card. So if you have -- thank you.
12 If there's anybody that did not receive a card, we can
13 certainly get you one, or if you have one and you'd
14 like for us to pick it up, please raise your hand.
15 Thank you.

16 If we've heard from all the speakers
17 before 8:00, I will recess the hearing and
18 Ms. Gauthier and I will remain here at the table until
19 8:00 to take your statement if you decide later that
20 you would like to say something on the record. Now,
21 the procedure we'll use will give each speaker three
22 minutes. And when I call your name please come up
23 onto the podium and Brianna will start the clock when
24 you are ready.

25 To help our court reporter, please

1 begin by stating your name and the name of the
2 organization, if any, that you represent. It will
3 help her immensely if you can also spell your last
4 name. Please don't provide any other personal
5 information, like your home address or phone number.

6 Again, your comments are recorded
7 verbatim. They'll be used to develop a transcript and
8 permanent record of this meeting, and will be
9 published in the final EIS. Your name will be
10 included, along with your comments, and will be in the
11 final report.

12 Of course, you don't have to speak for
13 the full three minutes allotted. That's entirely up
14 to you. To help you keep track of the time, Brianna
15 will hold up a yellow card when you have about 30
16 seconds left, and a red card when your time has
17 expired.

18 If you would please, at that point, go
19 ahead and conclude your comments so that I can call on
20 the next person. You don't need to yield any
21 remaining time to anybody else. I'll just move onto
22 the next speaker when you've finished. Now,
23 unfortunately it takes too much time to set up any
24 individual electronic presentations, if you have any,
25 but those can certainly be submitted as written

1 comments at a later time.

2 Tonight's hearing is scheduled to end
3 at 8:00. Now, if everyone who's signed up to speak
4 has had a chance to do so before that time, I'll ask
5 if any speaker would like another three minutes to
6 extend on their comments. If you would like to do
7 that, just let me know at that time and we'll put
8 another three minutes on the clock.

9 Again, Ms. Gauthier and I will remain
10 at the table to take your statement, if you wish to
11 make a comment after we recess, you want to add
12 something later to your oral comments. Or if you
13 would rather not speak here tonight, you can submit
14 written comments at any time up to March 14th, 2012.
15 There is no page limit on written comments and the Air
16 Force gives equal weight to oral and written comments.
17 Both become part of the official record and are
18 included in the final EIS.

19 Just a few reminders before we get
20 started. First, please limit your comments to the
21 draft EIS that is the purpose of this public comment
22 period. Second, if you agree with the previous
23 speaker on something, you can certainly say that, but
24 you don't need to use up your time repeating it since
25 it's already part of the record itself.

1 Finally, as I mentioned earlier, this
2 is not a Q-and-A session. It's an opportunity for you
3 to put on the record your views and concerns about the
4 proposal that you would like for the decision-makers
5 to consider. Questions that you pose during your
6 comments will become part of the record and will be
7 considered. After we're done with the formal part of
8 this, Air Force representatives will continue to be
9 available to discuss your questions.

10 And with that, I will call on our first
11 speaker, Mr. Robert Medler.

12 PUBLIC COMMENTS

3131 TU

13 MR. MEDLER: Good evening. Thank you,
14 Colonel McGuire, Colonel Wheeler and Ms. Fornof. Thank
15 you very much for you comments. My name is Robert
16 Medler, that's M-e-d-l-e-r. I work at Tucson Metro
17 Chamber of Commerce; I'm the vice president of
18 government affairs.

19 I think I have the distinguished honor
20 of being the sole person, outside of the Air Force,
21 that went to all of the scoping meetings two years
22 ago. San Carlos is a very far drive.

23 So I'll keep it short and sweet, seeing
24 we'll be sending out written comments. But I just
25 want to show our appreciation to the Air Force and the

1 Air National Guard to consider Tucson International
2 and the 162nd International Guard Unit. As Tucson
3 works to develop the aerospace and defense sector,
4 both Davis-Monthan and the 162nd are vital to that
5 sector being developed in Tucson, and we appreciate
6 everything the base does for the community, and we
7 look forward to continuing that relationship for
8 another 40 years.

9 Specifically with the EIS, the
10 proximity to the appropriate and adequate airspace,
11 the closeness to the Barry M. Goldwater range, we see
12 as a huge plus for the unit to continue their mission
13 in the foreign military sales and training of U.S. Air
14 Force and Air National Guard pilots on the F-35A.

GE-3

15 The financial impact of the unit is
16 integral to that part of Tucson, to the south side.
17 If I remember right, a past economic statement pegged
18 that at around \$150,000,000 each year to the
19 community. The base employs about 1,450 Tucsonans
20 into 1,000 full-time jobs. With the F-35A coming to
21 Tucson International, with the investment of 178- to
22 188,000,000. That's a lot of construction jobs in the
23 part of town that the airfield is in and the Air
24 National Guard unit is in. That's a lot of people who
25 lost their jobs in construction over the last half

1 decade. It would be great to put them back to work,
2 and we're in full support of that. In the base,
3 just -- I'm sorry -- you know, that's 1,800 to 2,000
4 people. And so the chamber is fully in support of the
5 F-35A being down in Tucson International Airport.

GE-3

6 On the environmental side, the net
7 reduction of the majority of the pollutants, if I
8 recall right, everything but nitrous oxide is reduced.
9 This is a greener, leaner machine, and we fully
10 support that coming to the base.

11 As for the noise, we understand that is
12 a serious concern of many of the people in our
13 community; however, we look at the economic benefit
14 and we look at the people that's being effected, and
15 those are the same people that are going to get the
16 economic benefit.

17 Thank you. I'll be quick.

18 So we think, hopefully tomorrow night
19 and Thursday night, the Air Force will hear how much
20 the people around base support it. And finally,
21 particularly to Fort Huachuca and Libby Airfield, I
22 think the map that Ms. Fornof went over about the
23 65-decibel day-and-night average, it's completely
24 within the installation. It doesn't affect any of the
25 population. It's a huge advantage, and we think the

1 Air Force should strongly consider the benefit of that
2 auxiliary airfield. So thank you very much again for
3 the opportunity.

4 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, Mr. Medler.
5 Mr. George Castle. Sir, if you would like to make a
6 statement.

7 MR. CASTLE: My name is George Castle,
8 like the king's castle. I'm a retired Air Force F-4
9 and F-16 pilot. And I was privileged to do my pilot
10 training at Williams Air Force Base, which is now
11 closed. It's up in the eastern portion of the valley
12 of the sun.

13 I can attest to the fact that Arizona
14 is a perfect place to train pilots. The skies are
15 wide open, there's not a lot of traffic. And of
16 course, the skies are blue. The percentage of time
17 when you have excellent flying weather is just about
18 all the time. So it's just the cards -- the deck is
19 stacked for success in training pilots in the state of
20 Arizona. And also on the ground, there's vast areas
21 where there's not a lot of population, so you're not
22 disturbing a lot of people.

23 Also, the impact here in the Sierra
24 Vista area, where most of us are from, is minimal.
25 The take-offs and landings are going to be taking

3132 TU

1 place at the Tucson Airport. Here at the Libby Army
2 Airfield, there'll be practicing approaches, simulated
3 flame-out approaches, and those operations are fairly
4 quiet. They're not using any munitions in this area.
5 That's all taking place down in the Barry Goldwater
6 range. It's a long way away. And so we won't really
7 notice much impact at all; probably very little change
8 from what we hear from the F-16s and the A-10s that
9 fly in the pattern here in Libby on a regular basis
10 already.

NO-9

11 And I think the -- a large majority of
12 the population in the Sierra Vista area are very
13 supportive of a strong military. It's very important
14 that we have high tech weaponry for our military to
15 utilize to make sure that we can -- it makes us so
16 that we're less likely to get into a conflict as long
17 as we're well prepared, and that includes training.

18 The noise that we hear really and truly
19 is the sound of freedom. When I was a little kid, I
20 grew up a couple miles off the north end of runway 36
21 at the Albuquerque International Airport, Kirtland Air
22 Force base. And as a little kid, one day, I think it
23 was a B-47 -- thank you -- flew overhead, and it was
24 kind of like a medal overcast for a short period of
25 time and it was very loud. But it was something that

1 said hey, I really would like to do that some day. So
2 it was an incentive for a young kid to -- and I think
3 that -- to maybe go into the military some day and to
4 serve. And I think as our young population here sees
5 that, it might have the same effect. Thank you very
6 much.

7 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, Mr. Castle.

8 Mr. Tom Finnegan, if you'd like to make
9 a statement, sir.

3133 TU

10 COLONEL FINNEGAN: Colonel, retired,
11 Tom Finnegan, F-i-n-n-e-g-a-n. And I'm here wearing
12 two hats tonight; one as a member of the board of
13 directors of the Haachuca 50. And on behalf of the
14 Huachuca 50, I would tell you the F-35 to the 162nd
15 fighter wing is a good thing.

GE-3

16 Now, the city of Sierra Vista gains
17 absolutely nothing economically because it's stationed
18 up in Tucson. But we're proud to be the alternate
19 field for the 162nd and for the folks at D.M. and we
20 will continue that.

21 I put my other hat on as the co-chair
22 of the Arizona Military Affairs Commission and tell
23 you, again, the F-35A is more than welcome at the
24 162nd and up at Luke. That's all.

GE-3

25 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, Colonel

1 Finnegan. We do have one more speaker, Mr. Tom
2 Kennedy.

3 MR. KENNEDY: I'm probably the only one
4 that's going to have any kind of a negative comment.
5 My name is Tom Kennedy. I'm -- I was an Air Force
6 pilot. I flew in Vietnam. I'm not retired, but I
7 have that background. I'm also an aeronautics
8 engineer of Honeywell for many, many years, and worked
9 on airplanes such as the F-35, as well as many other
10 ones.

3134 TU

11 My concern, my big concern, is of
12 course the noise that's going to effect everybody.
13 It's about four times as noisy as the F-16. What I'm
14 really concerned about, though, both for Tucson and
15 Sierra Vista, is safety, because the airplane is
16 largely untested and it has a lot of bugs in it. And
17 this is not the Tucson of 50 years ago, where there
18 was nothing out there. Now, there are homes and
19 buildings all around.

NO-11

NO-1

SA-1

20 And the same can be said for Sierra
21 Vista to a lesser degree. And so my concern is safety
22 of that airplane. And rather than just drop a bomb
23 and say I don't like it, my recommended alternative
24 has always been for this airplane to be put out at
25 Gila Bend. There's an Air Force base already in place

GE-1

1 there. You've got two and a half million acres of
2 coyotes and rattle snacks that it's -- it's not going
3 to bother anybody, and it's just not clear to me why
4 that is not a better alternative than Tucson, or
5 Sierra Vista, or any other urban setting.

GE-1
cont'd

6 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, Mr. Kennedy.
7 Is there anybody else out there that would like to
8 make a comment this evening? Would any of our
9 previous speakers like to make an additional comment,
10 or have some additional time at the podium?

11 Well, as a I mentioned earlier, the
12 hearing is scheduled to end at 8:00. We've heard from
13 everyone so far that wishes to speak. Since we have
14 no further speakers, the Air Force representatives
15 will continue to be available out by the display
16 boards to discuss things with you, and Ms. Gauthier
17 and I will remain here at the table until 8:00 and
18 record the statement of anyone who decides that they
19 would like to put a comment on the record.

20 I thank you for your time and your
21 interest in the F-35A Training Basing EIS proposal.
22 And tonight is not the end of your opportunity to
23 participate in the environmental review process.
24 Again, written comment sheets are available at the
25 registration table. You can turn these sheets in

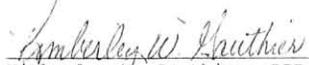
1 tonight, or mail them or fax them later. The mailing
2 address is printed on the comment sheets themselves.
3 The Air Force welcomes public comments in writing at
4 any time during the Environmental Impact Analysis
5 process. However, to receive timely consideration,
6 all comments must be submitted by March 14, 2012.

7 This hearing is in recess. And I'd
8 like to thank you. I wish everybody a happy evening.

9 (Public Hearing and Oral Comments
10 Concluded at 8:00 p.m.)
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D.8.9 Transcript from the Tucson International Airport Air Guard Station Public Hearing Held February 22, 2012, in Tucson, Arizona

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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
2 COUNTY OF COCHISE)
3
4 I, Kimberly W. Gauthier, do hereby certify
5 that the foregoing Transcript of Proceedings constitutes a
6 true and accurate transcript of the proceedings held in the
7 foregoing matter, all done to the best of my skill and
8 ability.
9
10 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
11 subscribed my name this 5th day of March, 2012.
12
13 
14 Kimberley W. Gauthier, RPR
15 Certified Reporter, Certificate No. 50567
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Page 1

U.S. AIR FORCE F-35A TRAINING BASING EIS

PUBLIC HEARING/PUBLIC COMMENTS
BEFORE HEARING OFFICER
COLONEL BRAD ROAN

TUCSON, ARIZONA
FEBRUARY 22, 2012
6:00 P.M.

Reported By: Kimberley W. Gauthier
Certified Reporter
Certification No. 50767

Peterson Reporting, Video & Litigation Services

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1 THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT
 2 SESSION was taken on February 22, 2012, commencing at
 3 6:00 p.m., at the Holiday Inn & Suites, Tucson Airport
 4 North, 4550 South Palo Verde Road, Tucson, Arizona,
 5 before Kimberley W. Gauthier, a Certified Reporter in
 6 the State of Arizona.

* * *

A P P E A R A N C E S

10 COLONEL BRAD ROAN
 11 United States Air Force
 12 Judge of Criminal Appeals in Washington, D.C.
 13 Hearing Officer
 14
 15 COLONEL MICHAEL MCGUIRE
 16 Commander, 162nd Fighter Wing
 17 Tucson Air Guard Station
 18
 19 LIEUTENANT COLONEL JON WHEELER
 20 Flight Instructor
 21 Air Education and Training Command
 22
 23 KIM FORNOF
 24 Air Education and Training Command
 25 Project Manager, F-35A Training Basing EIS

1 statements, or if you would rather not speak here
2 tonight, you can submit written commits at any time up
3 to March 14th, 2012. There is no page limit on the
4 written comments and the Air Force gives equal weight
5 to oral and written notes; both become part of the
6 official record and are included in the final report.

7 Just a few more reminders before we get
8 started. First, please limit your comments to the
9 draft EIS that is the purpose of this public hearing.
10 Second, if you agree with the previous speaker on
11 something, you can certainly say that, but you do not
12 need to use up your time repeating, since it's already
13 in the record.

14 Finally, as I mentioned earlier, this
15 not a Q-and-A session. It's an opportunity for you to
16 put on the record your views and concerns about the
17 proposal that you want the decision-makers to
18 consider. Questions that are posed during your
19 comments will become part of the record and will be
20 considered. After we're done with the formal part of
21 this, Air Force representatives will continue to be
22 available to discuss matters with you in the back.

23 With that, I will call on our first
24 speaker -- and I'm going to apologize up front. I may
25 mispronounce a name, or six, or more than that. So

1 please bear with me. I'll try my best.

2 Britann O'Brien.

3 PUBLIC COMMENTS

4 MS. O'BRIEN: Good evening. My name is
5 Britann O'Brien. I'm the director of the governor's
6 office here in the southern part of the state. On
7 behalf of governor Jar Brewer and all the citizens of
8 this great state, welcome to Arizona. Thank you for
9 allowing me to open these public comments to discuss
10 the 162nd Fighter Wing as an ideal home for the F-35A
11 training mission.

12 The F-35A basing decision process has
13 been long and comprehensive, and a decision of this
14 magnitude no doubt deserves this kind of scrutiny. It
15 should be a process that ensures every aspect gets
16 analyzed, every question answered, so that the final
17 decision is the correct one. The Department Of
18 Defense and the Air Force deserve high praise and
19 appreciation for the work they have done during this
20 process. So thank you.

21 The draft EIS is filled with a myriad
22 of technical information. But the message it delivers
23 is clear: The 162nd Fighter Wing at Tucson
24 International Airport is perfectly suited to house the
25 F-35A Lightning 2. Tucson and Arizona best fulfill

3135 TU

GE-3

GE-3

1 the expected mission and responsibilities of an F-35A
 2 training base, taking into consideration
 3 environmental, operational, technical and other
 4 factors. The evidence is indisputable. Exceptional
 5 flying weather and access to vast training ranges not
 6 found anywhere else in country, modern facilities and
 7 and exemplary safety record, instructors that average
 8 more than 3,000 flight hours and maintainers that
 9 average over 18 years of experience.

GE-3
cont'd

10 The 162nd Fighter Wing is the largest
 11 Air National Guard F-16 training base in the country,
 12 training 6,800 U.S. and international pilots to fly
 13 the fighter since 1985. The 162nd Fighter Wing
 14 provides the best-trained coalition war fighter
 15 partners for the United States Air Force. Our pilots
 16 deserve the best training and equipment to continue
 17 their important work to keep us safe and secure.

18 For 56 years, the 162nd Fighter Wing
 19 has been a part of your community and a vital asset to
 20 our economy. The Wing alone employs approximately
 21 1,500 Tucsonans and exceeds \$280,000,000 in annual
 22 positive economic impact to the region. But most
 23 importantly, the 162nd has provided Arizona a sense of
 24 pride, knowing that some of best fighter pilots in the
 25 world are trained right here in Tucson.

1 Tucson is a military town. We
 2 appreciate our military personnel and have had a
 3 strong support structure within the community for our
 4 airmen and women and their families. We welcome the
 5 spouses who join our community groups and
 6 organizations. We're proud of the children who attend
 7 our schools and we take pride in knowing that
 8 countless veterans retire in southern Arizona, and we
 9 welcome every single one of them. And now, as we
 10 celebrate our centennial year, we look to the future,
 11 and that future includes welcoming the F-35A Lightning
 12 2 to the 162nd at Tucson International Airport.

13 Tucson trains the best pilots in the
 14 world. Let's continue this mission and protect those
 15 who protect us. Thank you very much for this
 16 opportunity to speak today.

17 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, Ms. O'Brien.
 18 And just -- I'll ask, is everyone able to hear me in
 19 the back? I can't tell.

3136 TU

20 Okay. Great. Mr. Jim Langston.

21 MR. LANGSTON: Good evening. My name
 22 is James Langston. Being called the first one out of
 23 the chute, I really didn't have time to make a real
 24 good speech.

25 But I remember that there was a time in

1 this country, during my father's time, when everybody
2 kind of pulled to beat the Hun and the Japanese. And
3 there was nobody that really cared whether there was
4 too much noise or whatever the mission -- the mission
5 was to keep America strong, keep America's defense
6 strong, and to win the war.

7 And we're in another war, much to our
8 dismay, in the war on terror. And that war on terror
9 is going to need a different kind of war fighter. And
10 in this type of warfare, highly trained pilots that
11 really know what they're doing and can put the ammo
12 where it needs to be, is going to be the type of
13 places that wins this war on terror.

GE-3

14 I'm proud to say that Tucson has always
15 been the cradle of aviation, and a first line of
16 defense for the United States of America. And for us,
17 as Tucsonans, to turn our back on our Air Force
18 heritage would be like deciding we don't need a Navy.
19 I mean, I just can't believe that we would do
20 something like that.

21 In parting, there's only one thing that
22 I really have to say. Being an ex-fighter pilot
23 myself, jet noise is really the sound of freedom.

24 Thanks.

25 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, Mr. Langston.

1 Next will be Ms. Rita Ornelas.

3137 TU

2 MS. ORNELAS: Thank you. My name is
3 Rita Ornelas, O-r-n-e-l-a-s. And I live near the ---
4 right over the flight path of D-M. I'm very familiar
5 with the amount of noise that we get. I can imagine
6 at TIA what everybody goes through with not only the
7 noise, but all the other disturbances.

8 I commend the military. None of us
9 here are against the military. I think they do a
10 great job.

11 But this airplane is something
12 different than we've ever seen before. The F-35A and
13 the other versions of it are not even ready yet to be
14 flown. It's had a lot of problems. By the time it
15 does get here -- and I hope that we do not get it
16 here. I do believe that this plane needs to be in
17 training somewhere, but not in Tucson. Tucson has too
18 much going on right now in many areas; not only with
19 aircraft, but in all our economics -- all our
20 councilmen, mayor, supervisors, everybody that's in
21 charge of this city doesn't seem take into
22 consideration the people in this city and what the
23 people are going through.

SA-12
GE-4

24 This country is founded for the people
25 and by the people. The military is here to protect

1 the people, and we love that. But this is a
2 particular plane that I think will do great damage to
3 the economy of Tucson, even though many here think
4 it's going to be great for the economy. Once this
5 type of noise comes, I do not believe that it will be
6 great for the economy.

SO-1

7 It may create a few jobs for a while.
8 It may do a lot of good things for a few people. But
9 in the long run, it's going to destroy Tucson. People
10 are not going to want to come to Tucson to live here
11 under this kind of noise.

12 Understand people that live far away
13 from bases aren't concerned with the noise and what it
14 does to the properties, the schools, the school
15 children, the workers working outside. It affects
16 everybody. And I just cannot fathom that this type of
17 plane would be brought to a city like Tucson. It's
18 precious. Tucson is a wonderful place to live, but
19 not with this kind of noise. Thank you.

SO-1
EJ-1
EJ-6
SA-23
NO-11

20 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, Ms. Ornelas.
21 Our next speaker will be Mr. Keith Van Heyningen.

3138 TU

22 MR. VAN HEYNINGEN: Good evening. My
23 name is Keith Van Heyningen. I too live out in Rita
24 Ranch, basically the northwest corner of it. I love
25 D-M. I wave at the planes that go by, they're so

1 close. I have absolutely no problem with the F-35.

2 My father and my grandfather, and their
3 fathers before them, were in the military. I was in
4 the military. I've worked with dynamite out in the
5 desert. I've worked around big guns. For people to
6 say this little bit of noise is going to destroy the
7 city is pathetic. If you want to look at who's
8 destroying the city and county, look directly at your
9 city council and your Pima County Board.

10 Too many people in this town are
11 against progress, be it the F-35, be it a copper mine,
12 be it taking care of your streets, or your firemen or
13 police. The city council seems bent on doing one
14 thing, financially bankrupting us. With Rio Nuevo,
15 which is under FBI investigation, with a trolley for
16 drunk college students, you're talking about a billion
17 dollars of waste.

18 Now, if we get the F-35, we get
19 upgrades to our international airport, we get more
20 servicemen. These are highly educated and trained
21 people who I prefer in my city over the cartels, or
22 the drug addicts, or the gang-bangers. And for people
23 who are against this who seem to be up in the their
24 years, how did you survive this long, if a little
25 noise bothers you that much?

GE-3

1 I'm tired of having to fight these
2 battles over and over again because some eco-freak has
3 the ear of the media. I'm going to call you what you
4 are, you're socialists and cowards. Good night.

5 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, sir.

6 Mr. Darren Venters.

7 MR. VENTERS: Thank you. My name is
8 Darren Venters. And I would just like to say that
9 first of all, I agree completely with the governor's
10 statement. Tucson is an ideal place to base the F-35
11 program. We have a tremendous range just west of here
12 that will not require a lot of additional
13 construction, things to be put in place, and it is an
14 environment that the F-35 can safely operate in.

15 With regard to sound, I noticed on the
16 presentation here that the sound envelope extended
17 some distance out at a 24 outreach of 65 DBA. 65 DBA
18 is roughly the sound that we have here in this room
19 tonight. If you -- inside an automobile in traffic is
20 about 85 DB.

21 So the sound levels are not nearly what
22 one might think they are. So I'm not concerned about
23 the sound. As a matter of fact, I think the sound of
24 freedom is one of the great things that we hear when
25 these airplanes are operating out here. So thank you

3139 TU

GE-3

1 very much.

2 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, Mr. Venters.

3 Next will be Mr. Robin Gomez.

4 MR. GOMEZ: I'm Robin Gomez, and I hate
5 to differ with the governor, and I do appreciate the
6 guys who are fighting who protect us. I served four
7 years in active duty myself, in a very good unit of
8 the Navy, and two years reserve. He just -- it just
9 doesn't make common sense to base the most powerful,
10 loudest and yet unproven strike fighter jet in a
11 commercial airport, in the middle of a metropolitan
12 area in order to train foreign pilots.

13 And I'm sorry to say your DEIS -- and I
14 know you have to plan ahead -- is not ready for public
15 input, okay? Basic information analysis of the noise
16 and safety is not available. The executive summary on
17 page 69 states: "Because the F-35A is a new aircraft
18 under development, some data normally used to predict
19 noise, air quality and safety conditions cannot be
20 obtained at this time.

21 And yet you're asking me, a citizen --
22 and you chased a lot of these planes a few years
23 back -- you can't expect our citizens to come in --
24 nor can our public officials, like the governor, judge
25 a proposal when critical information that vitally

3140 TU

GE-4
NO-37

NP-13

1 impacts our safety and welfare are not available, are
 2 matters of speculation. The DEIS really needs to be
 3 resubmitted when that basic data become available.
 4 And you know what that data is as well as I do.

NP-13
cont'd

5 Let's talk noise. Originally the EIS
 6 said the F-35A would be four times louder when
 7 landing. Some two weeks after publishing the EIS, the
 8 Air Force sent out an errata sheet lowering the figure
 9 to only twice as loud, from 22 decibels to 9 decibels
 10 louder than the F-16. No explanation given on how
 11 such a large error was made.

NO-21

12 Of course, the noise analysis was all
 13 done using a computer model. Any of us who have
 14 fooled around with computer modeling knows how easy it
 15 is to produce data to support a conclusion, right?
 16 And you mean after two years of working on the study,
 17 the Air Force publishes a study with a key data -- key
 18 error in the data?

NO-42

19 Guys, you're in the Air Force. I was
 20 in the Navy. If somebody on my ship had made that
 21 kind of an error, he would have been relieved of
 22 command. Just a little Navy prejudice for you; when
 23 you drop those bombs, we do expect you to hit the
 24 target, not tell us that you were 13 decibels off.

25 Now look at the safety risk analysis.

SA-12

1 It's just not based on facts. I'll continue later. I
 2 wouldn't want you to miss it.

SA-12
cont'd

3 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, Mr. Gomez.
 4 Ms. Anne Gomez.

3141 TU

5 MS. GOMEZ: Hi, I'm Anne Gomez, and I
 6 came to Tucson back in 1947, before there was ever an
 7 Air Force, before there was ever an Air National
 8 Guard, and before there were jets and -- at either
 9 D-M. or at TIA. The skies were quiet then; mostly
 10 only a few prop planes flying overhead.

11 Over the years, there has been a
 12 cumulative increase in both commercial and military
 13 aircraft noise over TIA and their neighbors. The F-16
 14 foreign pilot training was introduced to the skies
 15 over established Tucson neighborhoods.

16 Now the Air Force wants to add even
 17 more noise. We aren't sure how much noise will be
 18 added. They keep changing the data, the noise data.
 19 And initially, as I think Robin had said, it was 22
 20 decibels more than the F-16C. And now it was changed
 21 to 9 decibels, which is only twice as loud.

NO-1

NO-21

22 The Air Force isn't giving us enough
 23 information about the safety of this brand-new single
 24 engine jet to even make a comment. We read documents
 25 from Washington that are pretty scary. The Air Force

SA-12

NP-12

1 needs to extend the time for comments for the draft
2 EIS until a flyover can be done in a valley surrounded
3 by mountains.

NP-12
cont'd

4 Former Congresswoman Gabriel Giffords
5 requested that a flyover be done. Senator John McCain
6 also requested that a flyover be done. The local
7 military community relations committee also requested
8 that a flyover be done. The F-35 is not the F-16, and
9 they're training requirements will be different. They
10 wouldn't be doing this EIS. There's many comparisons
11 to the F-16, but this whole process would not be going
12 on if the F-35A wasn't a different aircraft.

GE-2

13 Until the Air Force is able to give us
14 reasonable information about the noise levels, flight
15 path and a fully tested aircraft, this draft EIS is
16 premature and pure speculation.

NP-13

17 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, Ms. Gomez.
18 Mr. Bob Reault.

3142 TU

19 MR. REAULT: Good evening, ladies and
20 gentlemen. Thank you all for coming. I'm Bob Reault.
21 I came here in '69 to go to the optical science
22 center, when we had 120,000 people, and we graciously,
23 as Tucsonans do, accommodated another 800,000, and
24 we're still doing that. We're happy to do that.

25 I was brought up in Connecticut, and I

1 lived across the street from the railroad tracks, the
2 railroad station, and was about 100 feet from the
3 tracks when they had the puffer bellies. So you ain't
4 heard noise yet. They were the ones that would roll
5 you out of bed.

6 But I was an Air Force pilot. I've
7 lived on nine bases. I lived on 27th street near
8 Craycroft when I was going through graduate school.
9 So yeah, I understand the noise. This is something,
10 you know, trust me, it's worth it. We can live with
11 it. You'll sleep through it. You won't even get
12 woken up by it.

13 I'm not qualified to go through the
14 analysis as, you know, it's still ongoing, so I'm not
15 going to comment to that. But you know, the need
16 for -- I have flown on Goldwater Range, and I know the
17 egress at Luke, and I was on Nellis, here at
18 Davis-Monthan, and the International Airport. So I
19 know ingress and egress and safety, and all the kind
20 of -- this is a good town for it.

21 I understand the personal obligation.
22 I took -- you want to find me on the History Channel,
23 on the Military Channel on American Suicide Missions,
24 we lost seven of our planes in 30 days. My first trip
25 was over Hanoi.

1 So we all in this room and all in the
2 country, we all assume our liability to have our
3 defense, our Navy, our Air Force, our Army. And you
4 know, there's all that liability of, you know, making
5 weapons and bringing them on trains and everything
6 else.

7 So I endorse the fact that we too have
8 to do that. The lower temperatures here, versus, say,
9 hey, let's send this up to Phoenix. No, I think it
10 will be safer for the state of Arizona to put them out
11 here. So in the best interests of our nation, our
12 state, our regional community, I endorse having them
13 here. Thank you very much.

GE-3

14 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, sir. Mr.
15 Gary Ashberger.

3143 TU

16 MR. ASHBERGER: Good evening. My name
17 is Gary Ashberger, and I live approximately one mile
18 off the northwest end of the main runway of Tucson
19 International Airport. I've lived there for almost 39
20 years. And what I would like to address tonight is
21 some of the numbers that I got from the EIS regarding
22 afterburner operation.

23 I'd first like to quote a note at the
24 bottom of Table 3.2.2, related to afterburner
25 operation: "Noise levels presented were calculated at

1 Ocotillo Elementary School for the representative
2 departure, arrival and closed-pattern flight that
3 comes closest to the location. Actual individual over
4 flight noise levels vary from the noise levels listed
5 because of variations in aircraft, configuration,
6 flight track, attitude and atmospheric conditions."

7 You did noise level analyses at 15
8 different locations for normal operation. However,
9 you did noise level analysis of only one location for
10 afterburner operation, and it is not the closest to
11 the actual flight path or take-off path for the
12 aircraft. Ocotillo Elementary School is approximately
13 three-fourths of a mile from the 65 DB contour, under
14 scenario T3, which is the largest group of aircraft.

NO-5

15 On the other hand, Mission Manner
16 Elementary School is approximately one-eighth of a
17 mile from the same noise contour, and it is much
18 closer to the take-off pattern, northwest take-off
19 pattern from the main runway than Ocotillo.

20 Again, using your scale in Figure 3.1,
21 with the sound exposure level of 94 DB, again, quoting
22 from Table 3.2.2: "Afterburner operation would be 16
23 times louder than the 70 DB level, which is five DB
24 louder than the 65 DB level you're quoting."

NP-13

25 Given this and many other issues, it

1 looks like this process should not go forward or
2 proceed without actual overflight data. How can this
3 DEIS be acceptable with so many unknowns and
4 disclaimers? Our concerns must be answered
5 explicitly, not implicitly, using flawed data. Thank
6 you.

NP-13
cont'd

7 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you,
8 Mr. Ashberger.

9 Mr. Gary Hunter.

3144 TU

10 MR. HUNTER: My name is Gary Hunter.
11 For the past 16 years, my wife and I have lived in
12 mid-town Tucson. My wife and I are Americans. We
13 care about our country and we care about this
14 community. This is massive, and it's only volume one.

15 For those of us who aren't experts in
16 the NEPA process or in noise analysis, it's
17 intimidating. It takes us a long time to get through
18 this draft EIS. It would help us a lot if the comment
19 period could be extended by 30 days. With the
20 extension, we could look at the draft more carefully,
21 and we could help ensure the final EIS reflects the
22 concerns of our community.

NP-12

23 Already we have some concerns. For
24 example, the draft shows a 65-decibel contour, but it
25 says nothing about the severe restrictions that

LU-11

1 Arizona Revised Statutes impose on all property within
2 that contour. For example, the Arizona Revised
3 Statutes requires duplexes, multiplexes and apartment
4 buildings within the 65-decibel contour to be
5 abandoned. Single family homes built after the year
6 2000 will have to be abandoned. The draft says
7 nothing about any of this.

LU-11
cont'd

8 The draft cites only two studies
9 regarding the impacts of aircraft noise on property
10 values. In fact, there are a number of studies that
11 demonstrate the relationship is quantifiable and that
12 aircraft can reduce property values by 25 percent or
13 more. Is this what we want?

SO-33

14 The draft provides no estimate of the
15 total dollar loss of Tucson's property values and it
16 provides no estimate of the total dollar loss of
17 property tax revenues. The draft provides no analysis
18 of the impacts of F-35A on our economy.

19 Now, the first speaker here tonight
20 said that -- well, said that 162nd Fighter Wing where
21 the F-35A will be adds \$250,000,000 to our local
22 economy annually. Now, that -- excuse me,
23 280,000,000. That \$280,000,000 is a combination of
24 direct economic impacts, indirect economic impacts and
25 induced economic impacts. Now, when economists

SO-13

1 compare one part of an economy to the other, they use
2 only the direct impacts. The direct impacts of the
3 162nd on this economy is 127,000,000 per year. That's
4 four-tenths of one percent of Tucson's total gross
5 domestic product.

6 In contrast, our local leisure and
7 hospitality businesses add \$1,400,000,000 to our
8 economy each year. If the noise of aircraft drive
9 one-tenth of Tucson's visitors from our golf courses,
10 from our resorts and hotels, that impact will be
11 much -- that loss will be much greater than everything
12 the 162nd adds to our economy. Thank you.

13 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, Mr. Hunter.

14 Lee Stanfield.

15 MS. STANFIELD: My name is Lee
16 Stanfield. And it seems to me that this draft EIS
17 should be called the drafty EIS because it has so many
18 holes in it. But there's so many that there's no way
19 that one speaker can address all of them in three
20 minutes. I'll address some of the things:

21 One of them is the fact that so many
22 people believe that not bringing the F-35A is going to
23 cause the closure of Davis-Monthan. That's just not
24 accurate at all. Tucson, first of all, is high on the
25 list for the drone operations, which is a much more

SO-13
cont'd

3145 TU

1 compatible operation with a city of over 1,000,000
2 people, than to have the noisiest unproven plane
3 flying over us.

4 D-M and the Tucson International
5 Airport are less than the required five miles apart.
6 This is not addressed in the EIS. F-35As will have to
7 fly from TIA to Davis-Monthan to load live weapons,
8 bombs, because they can't store that at TIA. The EIS
9 does not even address those flights. It doesn't even
10 say anything about those flight paths regarding safety
11 or noise issues.

12 And another thing is what is the health
13 impact of the jet fuel on residents? JP8, the jet
14 fuel, is a known carcinogen. Will the additional
15 8,127 residents around the Tucson International
16 Airport whom the EIS states will be directly impacted,
17 will they be informed of the change of the risks to
18 their safety and health?

19 My understanding is that the people who
20 have already been impacted were not formally told
21 about it. They found out about it after the fact.
22 And what -- something that a lot of people don't
23 recognize is that when those 8,127 residents are being
24 flown over by the F-35s, the FAA will then designate
25 the area that they're in as being unsuitable for

AM-4

DO-30

SA-9

LU-6

1 residential use.
2 So what are they supposed to do?
3 They're supposed to stay there and become deaf? Are
4 they supposed to try to sell their property when
5 nobody's going to want to buy it, because it won't be
6 fit for residential use? Is the Air Force going to
7 come in and somehow compensate these people? I don't
8 think so.
9 Since a disproportionate number of
10 people impacted by this are low-income Hispanics, have
11 there been any notices by the Air Force in Spanish?
12 And by the way, since many Hispanic people are
13 impacted by this plan, why is this public hearing
14 nearest to the Tucson International Airport being held
15 on Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the rodeo
16 holidays in Tucson? Thank you.
17 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you,
18 Ms. Stanfield.
19 Mr. David Kryder.
20 MR. KRYDER: Good evening. I'm David
21 Kryder. I'm a 10-year resident here in Pima County.
22 Thank you very much, Colonel Roan, Colonel McGuire,
23 Lieutenant Colonel Wheeler, Ms. Forno and others. I
24 hope I got that right.
25 Ladies and gentlemen, we need the jobs.

LU-6
cont'd

SO-1

SO-11

EI-5

NP-28

3146 TU

1 We want the F-35A to be based here and we welcome
2 them. I'm on -- in addition to living in Green
3 Valley, I am on faculty here at Pima County Community
4 College, and we support the growth of this area. And
5 we see things like continuing the training services as
6 a vital part of that.
7 I'm sorry I made you laugh back there,
8 but that's all right. Look at yourself sometime.
9 I understand that there will be noise
10 around a jet aircraft. That's the nature of the
11 beast. The EIS seems to address that. And the craft
12 that is being proposed here, the F-35 to be based
13 here, is only slightly higher in its level of noise,
14 as earlier speakers have indicated, than the current
15 craft, and it's quite acceptable.
16 So the short version of all of this is,
17 we in Pima County need the F-35 training base here.
18 We want it here, and ladies and gentlemen, let's get
19 it on. Thank you very much.
20 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you Mr. Kryder.
21 I hope I'm pronouncing the name
22 correctly. Jean DeJong.
23 MS. DeJONG: Good evening, everyone. I
24 just -- when you were doing your presentation, I
25 noticed that the Fort Huachuca Air Force base,

GE-3

NO-9

GE-3

3147 TU

1 interestingly, has -- I have a cold. So this is to
 2 prevent me from coughing -- the Fort Huachuca Air
 3 Force base has no population around the base that is
 4 going to be affected by any of the over-flights of the
 5 F-16 that will take place down there, and I think
 6 it's -- one person who I know who's done quite a bit
 7 of work for the Air Force and for the military,
 8 actually said to me, You know, it's very interesting
 9 that you never see the Army planting itself on top of
 10 a city. The only branch of the military that does
 11 that is the Air Force. And that's kind of an
 12 interesting phenomenon.

13 And you know -- and I assume that
 14 people in the Air Force want to plant themselves on
 15 top of a city because of the amenities that the city
 16 has to offer. And so presumably people like to, you
 17 know, have access to the universities and to the
 18 schools, and to the recreation facilities and parks,
 19 and so on and so forth.

20 You know, what's happening to -- how I
 21 kind of see what's happening is that the Air Force has
 22 come in -- and there's been a kind of a relationship
 23 between the community and the Air Force over the
 24 years, and the Air Force people have enjoyed
 25 everything that Tucson and the vicinity has had to

1 offer.

2 But with the expansion of these
 3 operations, all those things that have drawn not only
 4 the Air Force to this area, but everyone to this area,
 5 are going to be gone. And then -- and the people who
 6 can move will actually move out of the area. And then
 7 all of the people who love the noise, who love the
 8 sound of freedom, who love to be deaf, who love to
 9 look up and raise their children in the air and say,
 10 isn't this wonderful? will have it all to themselves,
 11 I hope.

12 I just want to point out that, you
 13 know, there hasn't been an over-flight of the F-35. I
 14 don't think that that is just a mistake that's
 15 happened. I don't think the Air Force -- I don't
 16 think anyone who has a vested interest in this jet
 17 wants any of us to fully experience it.

18 Because if we were to fully experience
 19 it, we would know that at 122 decibels on landing and
 20 take-off, that the human ear can only be exposed to
 21 that level of noise for four seconds cumulative over
 22 24 hours before hearing loss happens. Think about
 23 that. If all the jets flying over you are creating
 24 that level of noise, we won't have to listen to the
 25 sound of freedom. We'll just have to look at it.

GE-2

NO-81

1 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, ma'am.
2 Mr. John Creuse.
3 MR. CREUSE: Thank you for the
4 opportunity tonight to speak. I personally think I'll
5 be personally injured from the sound of the airplanes.
6 I live in the Tucson mountains, and the F-16 -- not
7 lately, but last summer -- used to fly over and -- all
8 the time before that, made a terrible lot of noise.
9 And it was -- where I was -- I felt like I was -- had
10 to go in the house to get away from the noise.
11 But again, I don't know what -- as I
12 was talking to them tonight, they said that the
13 airplane will take off at a much higher level. I live
14 at the 3,000-foot elevation. And I'll tell you that
15 at 3,000 feet -- everybody in Tucson lives at around
16 2,000 feet, approximately, if they live in the valley.
17 But the level there makes a lot of difference in
18 the -- and the clearer the air is and the dryer the
19 air is, it's really loud.
20 And as far as the economic, I will be
21 personally harmed because the economic -- my home,
22 which I built with my two hands from the foundation
23 up, will be -- I think, personally myself -- will be
24 losing the value. I love the Air Force. I love the
25 Army. I was in the Army, and it is nothing personal

3148 TU

NO-5
NO-6

NO-8

NO-38

SO-1

1 against our country. Thank you.
2 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, sir.
3 Ms. Helen Bayly.
4 MS. BAYLY: Three minutes? Ready, set,
5 go. Helen Bayly is my name. I come from a military
6 family. My father helped develop radar in the 1930s
7 for the U.S. Air Force, and two of my uncles flew and
8 fought in the battle of Britain.
9 I'm going to comment on this wonderful
10 Environmental Impact Statement. It's a draft. And as
11 your staff have been reminding us, we've been reminded
12 that if we can offer some advice, it will make it a
13 better environmental statement. I wish the only woman
14 on the panel, by the way, had a rank. I wish I could
15 call you general or, you know, air vice marshal. The
16 only woman.
17 Anyway, as a local citizen, a
18 naturalized citizen, I've chosen to be an American
19 citizen myself. 50 years ago, I chose to be an
20 American, probably unlike many of you who were born
21 American. I'm concerned about the inappropriateness
22 of basing this most powerful, loud, and yet unproven
23 Air Force strike fighter jet at a commercial airport
24 in the middle of a metropolitan area in order to train
25 foreign pilots. And you will hear lots from other

3149 TU

GE-1

1 better people than I, engineers and aeronautical
2 engineers and analysts and lawyers.

3 But I am amazed that my own Air Force
4 isn't savvy enough to have some savvy lawyers on staff
5 who understand the NEPA. There are so many omissions
6 in the this wonderful document that I -- I'm proud to
7 have the document. I asked the Air Force to send it
8 to me.

9 But the the DEIS is, at the moment,
10 immature in many areas, and it's premature in all the
11 other ways. Basic information, essential even for the
12 governor's office, to analyze the sound and the effect
13 on businesses and effects on the environment, that
14 basic information is not available.

SO-13

15 Without my analyzing you into the
16 ground, take it from me, and another people will
17 mention it, and know I that our letters do, will --
18 I'm an old teacher. I'm sure you can tell. We want
19 you to do a better job, and we want you to talk about
20 and study the health effects and the environmental
21 effects. I have -- after my grandchildren moved here
22 24 years ago, which I think outdoes some of you who've
23 been here 15 years -- I guess I've been here 14
24 years -- I have 30 more seconds.

SO-40

25 But there's so many pieces of

NP-13

1 significant information missing about noise and safety
2 impacts. Most of your suggestions are unrealistic and
3 inadequate. I'm personally incensed that we haven't
4 had it written in Spanish. Did you send out Spanish
5 notifications? How about all the tribes? I don't see
6 too many of my wonderful Mexican American friends.
7 I'm supposed to end. I may take the opportunity of
8 finishing later.

NP-13
cont'd

EJ-5

CU-15

9 I'm delighted to be in front of the Air
10 Force for which my family has done so much. But I do
11 think that you need to get some really good lawyers
12 and go over it again and again, and give endless
13 extensions until the incorrections are improved.
14 Thank you.

15 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, ma'am.

16 Ms. Lisa McFarlane.

17 MS. McFARLANE: Thank you for the
18 chance to speak. Let me first give you some
19 background on my involvement in jet noise and safety
20 impacts. I came to Tucson in 1985 to pursue a Ph.D.
21 in planetary science, which I subsequently earned from
22 the University of Arizona.

3150 TU

23 I knew that 2004, way back when, would
24 be very busy with a spacecraft mission that kind of
25 came due, so to speak, around that time. So 10 years

1 of preparation all came down to like a 20-minute
2 descent into Saturn's largest moon, all as part of the
3 Cassini Spacecraft Mission.

4 I bought a house specifically so I
5 could avoid distractions and concentrate on the
6 mission. This strategy completely backfired.
7 Instead, the house I bought in 2003, which was in no
8 noise zone when I bought it, and as close to the
9 university as it is to Davis-Monthan, was suddenly
10 enveloped by expanding noise zones from Davis-Monthan
11 due to louder jets, either already present or
12 expected.

13 There was significant and vociferous
14 dissent among those most affected by this expansion at
15 the time at the 2004 hearing. All citizens who
16 actually lived in the area opposed the noise zone
17 expansion.

18 And this situation seems exactly
19 analogous. The citizens' arguments were articulate
20 and long. The mission at D-M was supposed to be A-10s
21 and C-130s, yet through Operation Snowbird, which was
22 supposed to have been a part-year mission, carriers,
23 Tornados, F-18s, and other extremely loud and less
24 safe jets snuck in, so to speak, and started to fly
25 year round.

1 The clear consensus, again, of the
2 people who were subjected to the jets while in their
3 homes, was that it was too loud already. There were
4 crashes in town, and safety and health issues were
5 also a concern.

6 At that 2004 noise zone expansion
7 hearing, one resident stood out in my mind in
8 particular. I haven't spoken to her before that time
9 or since. Her name is Diana Steele. She lived in my
10 neighborhood for 34 years. And she cited a specific
11 day in time when a jet went over that was very loud,
12 and so this is her quote: "I heard a jet in the
13 distance approaching for a landing. The noise became
14 so loud that both my husband and I had to physically
15 put our fingers in our ears to try and block the
16 noise. The noise got louder, and louder, and louder,
17 and did not calm down. If I took my fingers out of my
18 ears, it hurt so bad. After the plane landed, I had a
19 headache and ringing in my ears for several minutes.
20 This is not acceptable."

21 And she went on to say that she's been
22 a supporter of D-M for many years. She's not a
23 newcomer to the area. She's a fifth-generation
24 Tucsonan. She has seventh generation Tucson
25 grandkids.

1 This is not a complaint that she made
2 lightly. And she talked about the fact that she was
3 not trying to oppose D-M, but just the fact that this
4 was no longer just an inconvenience or an annoyance,
5 but it was a health issue.

6 So my concern is that I'm not sure that
7 these issues have been -- or, in fact, I know that
8 these issues have not been adequately addressed in the
9 draft EIS. Let's see. So basically, just the idea is
10 that twice as loud, or anything more than that, is
11 just too loud. Thanks. I guess I'm out of time.

12 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, Ms.
13 McFarlane.

14 Mr. Bruce Dusenberry.

15 MR. DUSENBERRY: Good evening. My name
16 is Bruce Dusenberry. I'm a native Tucsonan. I've
17 lived here all my life. I run a moving and storage
18 company that's 88 years old and was founded here in
19 Tucson. We move people into Tucson all the time and
20 have for 88 years, and can assure you that the
21 presence of jets and planes at D-M and TIA have not
22 stopped that growth and number of people moving into
23 our community. They seem to come here and spend
24 billions of dollars at our hotels anyway.

25 Clearly, we have been flying planes --

DO-63

3151 TU

1 jets at the Fighter Wing at TIA for four decades now.
2 This -- the 162nd does an excellent job. It now flies
3 the F-16s, which are noisy airplanes. These will be a
4 bit noisier.

5 It was explained to me, in response to
6 Mr. Gomez's comments about how did the noise change,
7 that the original noise levels were done with test
8 pilots during the testing phase of the F-35. Now that
9 that phase is over and the test pilots are more like
10 the race car drivers, aren't doing that anymore, they
11 used instructor pilots which would be appropriate for
12 the training mission that's coming here, and did the
13 noise tests with the instructor pilots doing the
14 flying. It's all in the EIS, as far as the take-offs,
15 the flight pattern levels and the approach levels.

16 And as you've pointed out, now it
17 appears that it's a nine-decibel increase. Three
18 decibels is an imperceptible increase to the human
19 hear. Five decibels is barely perceptible. Ten
20 decibels becomes a twice-as-loud event. So nine
21 decibels is almost twice as loud. So it will be a
22 noisier airplane. Ocotillo Elementary is just outside
23 the traffic pattern of the F-16s and the F-35As when
24 they come, so that's a perfectly logical place to do
25 that.

1 I want to make sure that I state very
2 clearly that the remarks of Britain O'Brien on behalf
3 of our governor are mine, so I will not repeat those
4 as the instructions were given. Those are excellent
5 remarks regarding the socioeconomic impact of the
6 162nd Fighter Wing on our community, which is
7 significant and large, and in a time when our economy
8 needs to grow here in Tucson, in a community that's
9 based on the aerospace and defense history, and has a
10 history since 1927, when Davis-Monthan started as our
11 municipal airfield in Tucson, of being the home for
12 the Air Force and for military aircraft for our
13 national defense. I would strongly urge that this is
14 a mission that's very appropriately based here in the
15 Tucson Arizona.

GE-3

16 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, sir.
17 Mr. Bill Holmes.

3152 TU

18 MR. HOLMES: Good evening. First, I'd
19 like to thank Colonel McGuire and our host from the
20 162nd and the Air Force for allowing me to be here
21 this evening and speak. I have come here this evening
22 wearing two hats.

23 First, I am the chief operating officer
24 of the Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce. Our mission,
25 our purpose, is to build and to promote a strong local

GE-3

GE-3
cont'd

1 economy. And I believe -- we believe that by bringing
2 F-35 to Tucson will do just that. And we've heard
3 that it's going to send businesses away and they're
4 complaining. We got over 1,400 members, and across
5 them, I've not heard anything that would support that.

6 The second hat I'm wearing, though, is
7 as a person who lived in that flight pattern. From
8 1980 until 1990, I lived off of Drexel and Campbell.
9 I raised three daughters. They all went to the
10 Sunnyside School District schools, Esperanza, Apollo
11 and Sunnyside. I now have two grandchildren at San
12 Miguel in the flight pattern.

13 You know, when I first moved into my
14 home, I noticed those planes. You know, it was before
15 the F-16 got there. But TIA flew over the A-10s,
16 helicopters and it was annoying. But within a few
17 weeks of being here, I didn't notice it. And in 1985,
18 the F-16 came. I noticed that one. That was a little
19 louder. But within a short time, I grew to be
20 desensitized to it. I didn't hear it any longer.

21 But you know what I would do? Is every
22 year, when they had the Air Force appreciation days
23 over at D-M, I went to them. I've been going there
24 for about 35 years. And the closer I could get to
25 that runway, the closer I could get to those jets

1 taking off, and to have that sense of what our
2 military is doing for us throughout the world, it gave
3 me a great sense of pride.

4 And I understand that there's more work
5 to be done on the EIS. I appreciate that. I
6 understand that we have very, very talented and
7 knowledgeable people working on that. I have great
8 trust that they will come up with a comprehensive EIS
9 that, once it is published and is accepted, that we
10 will welcome the F-35. Thank you.

11 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, sir.

12 Michael Grassinger.

3153 TU

13 MR. GRASSINGER: Thank you. I am
14 Michael Grassinger, and I am here tonight as a vice
15 president of DM50. The DM50 is an organization of
16 business leaders in this community which supports the
17 mission and economic viability of Davis-Monthan Air
18 Force base. But at the same time, we also support
19 that same viability and mission of the 162nd. Again,
20 I wouldn't repeat the governor's comments because they
21 are exactly what we would have said tonight.

22 I just would add a little bit, and that
23 is that in comparison to another controversial issue,
24 just as you can only locate a copper mine where there
25 is copper, you need to locate a flying mission where

GE-3

1 the facilities, the environment -- the environment and
2 the least-restricted airspace in the country is
3 available, as well as other facilities such as the
4 Goldwater range. It is the logical location for this
5 aircraft and for this mission.

GE-3
cont'd

6 As I said, as part of the DM50, we are
7 also aware of the community support for the military
8 and we believe that there is strong support throughout
9 the community for it, and that it is evidenced always
10 when we have the air show at Davis-Monthan where
11 hundred of thousands of people show up to show their
12 support, their interest and their appreciation for the
13 military. Thank you.

14 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, sir.

15 Mr. Tim Amalong.

3154 TU

16 MR. AMALONG: My name is Tim Amalong,
17 and I've got four different businesses out at Tucson
18 International. I've been basically a native of
19 Arizona in Tucson since I was born, 46 years. I'm
20 about a fifth-generation native.

21 I strongly support the F-35A coming to
22 Tucson. I just want to help you guys understand. As
23 far as working on the west ramp, I've got two flight
24 schools of smaller aircraft.

GE-3

25 Ma'am, you're really distracting with

1 the nodding of the head. So I would appreciate if you
2 just --

3 And anyway, back to my point. I'm on
4 the west ramp of Tucson International. I see these
5 F-16s fly all the time, my staff does. Normally they
6 take off on 1-1 left and 1-1 -- as far as typically
7 1-1 left and unless the wind is really strong, on 2-1.
8 But that's when they use the afterburners, when they
9 need it for the weight. When they have to do like
10 emergency go-rounds, that's when they use the
11 afterburners.

12 When they use 2-9, which is basically
13 going back over towards the city, what I've seen from
14 being on the west ramp, the safety issues and
15 everything else, is they'll hit their afterburners or
16 do what they can to get the speed up, get the altitude
17 up and then I see them throttle back.

18 And I hear it, where I mean, it's not
19 as loud to where people think it's going off on one --
20 runway 1-1. There's really literally no -- there's
21 businesses out there like in the remote areas, but
22 there's no homes out there.

23 Coming on runway 2-9, coming there and
24 the way they do it, they basically are able to lower
25 that noise from which my understanding, they're going

1 to do the same thing with the F-35. They don't have
2 to go with full fuel. They've got the thrust of the
3 engines that they're going to power back where they
4 don't need to do even what they are doing, the noise
5 decibels that the F-16s are doing. But when they do
6 that and they lower the power back is when they're
7 going over the city, is what I've noticed is the
8 decibels are a lot less.

9 And they've done a lot. The Air Guard
10 themselves have done a lot to hear Tucson, these
11 different groups, and try to accommodate that and work
12 together as a community. They're not against you
13 guys, whether it's the noise or anything else. I
14 couldn't think of a better place for the F-35A being
15 here.

16 Look how close we are to the border. I
17 would rather them be here if anything happened with
18 the terrorism and everything else. I mean, this is
19 something to where it's a lot more than just the
20 noise. It's having them based here. We've got the
21 alert over at Davis-Monthan protecting us every day.
22 They're ready to take out anything from the south.

23 So if you guys understand the whole
24 picture here -- which I hope you do -- I've talked to
25 a lot of you at some of the scoping meetings. And I

GE-3

1 mean, I really respect your backgrounds and
2 everything, but from what I've -- the few people I've
3 talked to, most of you people live over by
4 Davis-Monthan.

5 This is at Tucson International, using
6 1-1 left, getting out of there, and they're here for a
7 purpose, the international partners and everything.
8 It's just they're here for a purpose too. You'd
9 rather have them on your side than not. I appreciate
10 the time.

11 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, Mr. Amalong.
12 Ms. Carol Miller.

3155 TU

13 MS. MILLER: My name is Carol Miller.
14 I'm with the Peaceful Skies Coalition, which is an
15 organization that's monitoring a lot of Air Force, EIS
16 EAs. And I want to say that this is not about
17 patriotism, who is, who isn't. We're all here because
18 we love our country. We honor our constitution, which
19 puts the military under civilian control in the United
20 States. That's what makes us different from any of
21 the other countries in the world.

22 And it's -- why we are doing this is
23 because there is a federal law which the Air Force is
24 required to uphold and follow, the National
25 Environment Policy Act. It's not because someone is

1 an environmentalist or not an environmentalist, it is
2 about upholding the law of the United States of
3 America.

4 Our coalition has asked that the
5 Department Of Defense do a national baseline for all
6 of their future and current environmental impact
7 statements and environmental assessments. It's a
8 mockery of the law and the process to say that you can
9 isolate one small project, add up new stuff that's
10 coming in, and the National Enviromental Policy Act
11 requires that there be an accurate baseline. That
12 would be very essential.

GE-13

13 One thing that's going on here with the
14 F-35 is that the defense department in 2011 did a
15 review. People might not be aware there is a lot of
16 concern if this plane is ever going to be
17 flight-worthy, if it's ever going to be safe.

SA-12

18 The Department of Defense concurrent
19 review, also called the AHERN report, found a couple
20 of things. This is the defense department. Lack of
21 confidence in the design stability; supports serious
22 reconsideration of procurement and production. One
23 problem I think might be very important here in
24 Arizona. The lightning protection systems don't work,
25 will lead to canceling an estimated 25 to 50 percent

SA-12

SA-18

1 of planned training events due to proximity of
2 thunderstorm activity. I think that is an issue here.

SA-18
cont'd

3 The Governmental Accountability Office
4 testified to congress at the end of 2011. And what
5 they said is that testing has been slow and has not
6 demonstrated that the aircraft will work in its
7 intended environment.

SA-12

8 All of these unknowns that the federal
9 government is identifying is why this EIS must be
10 withdrawn. There must be planes, actual planes
11 passing the test that can have real data on sound, on
12 safety and on air quality. We are talking about a lot
13 of computer modeling, and that is not what the law
14 requires. And I urge the Air Force to pull this draft
15 EIS, wait until there are enough planes to fly to get
16 real data, and at that point ask the public to
17 comment. Thank you.

NP-13
SA-12

18 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, ma'am.

19 Ms. Sandi Egtesani.

3156 TU

20 MS. EGHTESANI: Good evening. My name
21 is Sandi Egtesani, and I come here wearing number of
22 hats. First and foremost, I love Tucson. Can you
23 hear me? Okay. Thank you.

24 First and foremost, I love Tucson. I
25 visited here first in 1970. There were, someone said,

1 160,000 people at that time. When we moved back here
2 after I got married, there were 250,000 people here.
3 And I can't really remember a day when they're weren't
4 airplanes flying overhead, to be honest with you.

5 We've lived -- I don't even know where
6 the flight path is. But I'm dead in the middle of
7 town, at Swan and Broadway. That's where my business
8 is. I raised my children in that area. Personally
9 the noise did not bother me.

10 My other hat now, as an adult, is as an
11 insurance agent. And the OSHA daily permissible noise
12 is 90 decibels for a full eight hours, 100 decibels
13 for two hours, and 15 minutes, 115 decibels. I just
14 wanted to correct that, for the record. I'm not a
15 scientist. I'm not that knowledgeable in those areas.
16 But I know what OSHA limits are, and they're very
17 important for the safety of people and our citizens.

18 I know that the military cares about
19 us. And I will tell you when I had a chance to choose
20 a place to live, I ran to Tucson. I ran to Tucson
21 because we have more military protection here than any
22 place in probably the whole United States. If you
23 ever lived any place, or you're aware of anybody that
24 does not live in a free world, in a free society, it's
25 a whole different thing.

1 I look at my watch every day and I
 2 thank the military. They created this wonderful
 3 watch. I don't have to wind it up anymore. And I
 4 guess one last comment I would like to make is, I
 5 really appreciated what Tim Amalong said, because I
 6 think he knows what he's talking about. He has worked
 7 around airplanes his entire life.

8 I also appreciate what Britain O'Brien
 9 said. She sounds like she is representing our
 10 government and the people of our state. We have
 11 enough problems as it is. I see people -- I know
 12 thousands of people, literally thousands of people in
 13 Arizona, and they come into my office and they're
 14 crying because they lost their house. They lost their
 15 job. They may not have transportation anymore. They
 16 can't afford their insurance.

17 And I think that if we don't consider
 18 bringing the F-35 to Tucson to replace the F-16, which
 19 I think is a wonderful, wonderful piece of equipment,
 20 that is protecting us day in and day out, then we'll
 21 be giving up a huge opportunity. We're at a turning
 22 point. We're going to take the opportunity, or we're
 23 going to leave it. So please join me and look at all
 24 of the facts before you make up your mind.

25 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, ma'am.

GE-3

1 John Palermo.
 2 MR. PALERMO: Good evening. I'm John
 3 Palermo, foreman of the Air National Guard in Tucson.
 4 I want to tell you that the 162nd is ideal for the
 5 F-35. We've got instructor pilots, the best in the
 6 Air Force. Our level of maintenance is above
 7 anything. We've got the airspace close to the range,
 8 and this is the place to do it. None of us really
 9 want to be in a fight, but I lot of us better know
 10 how. Thank you.

3157 TU

GE-3

11 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, Mr. Palermo.
 12 Mr. Tom Robertson.

3158 TU

13 MR. ROBERTSON: Good evening. My name
 14 is Tom Robertson. I appreciate the opportunity to
 15 comment on the Air Force's decision to bring the F-35
 16 to Tucson. The area in the EIS I intend to address is
 17 the community and infrastructure. I personally
 18 believe the Air Force should base the F-35 in Tucson,
 19 and I want the Air Force to know that the majority of
 20 the people Tucson want this to happen.

GE-3

21 First and foremost, we want to ensure
 22 the continued success of the 162nd Fighter Wing. The
 23 economic reasons for doing this are compelling.
 24 However, there are some other reasons beyond simple
 25 dollars and cents, why we want the 162nd Fighter Wing

1 to continue their mission with the F-35.
2 First, it's really about the people in
3 the 162nd Fighter Wing. Personnel employed by the Air
4 National Guard are well trained, motivated, productive
5 members of the Tucson community. The Guard provides a
6 great opportunity for our young people to further
7 their education, and above all, helps develop
8 leadership, a skill that's hard to find, and not
9 taught to any great degree in our school systems.
10 I speak from experience here. My
11 daughter graduated from Sabino High School and joined
12 the 162nd Fighter Wing as a traditional guardsman.
13 She graduated from the University of Arizona, largely
14 paid for through tuition assistance and her GI bill
15 from the Guard. After graduation from the U of A, she
16 was hired by Raytheon. She will tell you today that
17 her experience and training, all obtained in the Air
18 National Guard, played a great part in her hire at
19 Raytheon. We need to keep these young people in
20 Tucson.
21 Second, the 162nd Fighter Wing, and by
22 association, the city of Tucson, is truly the face of
23 the U.S. Air Force, and thus the United States, to a
24 large part of the world. The Wing trains pilots from
25 countries all over the globe to fly the F-16. These

1 are the same countries that are going to buy the F-35.
2 The allied pilots who train here love
3 Tucson. Why is that? Because the people of Tucson
4 are friendly, cosmopolitan and understand the
5 importance of developing good relationships at the
6 international level. This is a good thing and we need
7 to continue it in the future.
8 Third, we are blessed in Arizona with
9 an abundance of the natural resources needed to train
10 our warriors in the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine
11 Corps. I'm talking about airspace, ground space and
12 good weather. A military force only fights as well as
13 it trains. As a nation, if we're going to continue to
14 ask our children and grandchildren to fight our wars
15 for us, we owe it to them to provide the best training
16 environment in the world. Ladies and gentlemen, that
17 environment is right outside that door in Arizona.
18 Let's do the smart thing and the right thing and bring
19 the F-35 to Tucson. GE-3
20 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, sir.
21 Ms. Pat Birnie.
22 MS. BIRNIE: Thank you for the 3159 TU
23 opportunity to speak. I want to say right off at the
24 beginning that I'm opposed to the F-35 being based in
25 Tucson or even flight training being carried on in GE-4

1 Tucson. I think it would diminish the quality of life
2 enormously if it were here because of the noise, and
3 also because of the lack of safety for an untried new
4 technology. It's very risky to endanger our
5 population.

GE-4
cont'd
NO-36

SA-12

6 Tucson has a too high a density of
7 population for flight training to be carried out. The
8 DEIS that had been conducted is insufficient and
9 inadequate. It needs to go back to the drawing board.

GE-1

NP-13

10 We also need flyovers for the
11 population to hear this proposed flight. We need to
12 have that before any decisions are made as to the
13 basing. I have a real problem with the training
14 possibly at the Tucson International Airport because
15 of the commercial flights that are already there.
16 There's -- if there is space at the air base there for
17 24, 48 or 72 of these F-35s, it's overwhelming. That
18 means that there's going to be constant noise, not
19 just sporadic noise.

GE-2

CM-2

20 I'm also concerned about the effect on
21 wild life that hasn't been mentioned tonight, but it's
22 very dear to my heart.

BI-5

23 Many of the other comments I would like
24 to have made have already been made, so I will just
25 say thank you. And again, I oppose the basing and

GE-4

1 flight patterns for the training of this F-35 to be
2 here. Thank you.

GE-4
cont'd

3 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, ma'am.
4 Alex Moreno.

3160 TU

5 MR. MORENO: My name is Alex Moreno,
6 and what I want to say is I live right where the
7 pattern is, and they come right over my house. When I
8 built my house 50-some years ago, the planes that were
9 flying over were flying the other direction. Later
10 they came and started flying in this direction because
11 they said they needed more room for the new planes
12 that were coming in.

13 Well, they did make a lot of noise, but
14 none of them ever made the noise that the F-16 makes.
15 When those planes are flying over, I cannot be
16 outside. I built a patio there that I spent a lot of
17 money on, and I cannot use the patio when the planes
18 are flying over. So what the Air Force has done, or
19 the National Guard, or whoever it is, what they have
20 done is, they have taken my peace and quiet away from
21 me.

NO-8
NO-37

22 When I am inside the house, it's the
23 same thing. If I'm watching television, I can't hear
24 it and the pictures keep flipping over, and you can't
25 have any peace.

1 They say that when a plane is flying
2 over, you are listening to freedom. What I would like
3 to tell these people is, I would be very, very happy
4 to trade my home for their home, and then it would
5 prove how patriotic they really are. And I know that
6 they say that if you're against it, you're not
7 patriotic. That's the biggest lie I ever heard. And
8 it is because patriotism has nothing to do with going
9 against this, because patriotism tells us that we have
10 a right to oppose something that is being done. That
11 is real patriotism. And we just go along with what
12 whatever anyone tells you, that is not patriotism.
13 You're only following the line that is given to you.

14 And I hear all these people that say --
15 the ones that I really, really agreed with are the
16 ones that came in and then had some real data. The
17 ones that were against it had no data. All they did
18 was wave a flag and talk about patriotism, and all
19 this other kind of stuff. That doesn't mean anything.
20 All it is, is words.

21 And the other people that I saw that
22 are for it, are the ones that are going to profit from
23 it. All right. If you're going to profit from it,
24 I'll trade my house for your house, and we'll move
25 over. And let's see if you would like to live where I

1 live. We used to have our TV set and we used set it
2 at 10, 11, 12 on the, you know, on the noise thing.
3 Now it's over 20, because we're losing our hearing.

4 Now those who say that it's okay,
5 because it's happening to you, not to me. You know
6 what? You should be ashamed of yourselves. Thank
7 you.

8 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, sir.
9 Virginia Leavitt.

10 MS. LEAVITT: Thank you for this
11 opportunity. My name is Virginia Leavitt, and I've
12 been in the Tucson area for a little over 20 years.
13 For the last seven, I've been working at the Double
14 Tree at Reid Park, which is in the flight path of
15 Davis-Monthan and the 162nd.

16 Our guests there do not mind the noise
17 of the planes going over. They think it's a sound of
18 freedom. They enjoy it. They go out and take
19 pictures. They're very excited to see that. I've
20 never had a complaint in all these years. We just
21 want to make sure that the F-35 stays here. It's a
22 being economic impact on our area for all the hotels
23 in town. And I thank you very much, and thank you for
24 your service.

25 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, ma'am.

3161 TU

GE-3

1 Heather Smith.
 2 MS. SMITH: My name is Heather Smith.
 3 I was born and raised in Tucson, and I'm proud to be
 4 one of the 80 percent of Arizonans that are
 5 pro-military facilities. I've been in the hospitality
 6 industry for 20 years, and the impact that this
 7 training would have on the Tucson economy is
 8 irreplaceable.

3162 TU

GE-3

9 The Air National Guard is a training
 10 base, and its sole purpose is to train pilots. I'm
 11 not only thinking of this from an economic impact, but
 12 I'm also a proud mother of a senior airman stationed
 13 at the 162nd.

14 They've been in Tucson since 1956.
 15 They've been sharing the same airspace as the Tucson
 16 International Airport. They haven't had any problems
 17 at this point, and I don't see them having any
 18 problems.

19 I also don't think that the Air Force
 20 is going to be bringing any unsafe planes to the
 21 Tucson area. I really have a lot more faith in our
 22 military, in that they're going to make sure that
 23 everything is okay and it's going to be safe before
 24 they bring it here.

25 Davis-Monthan has been brought up a

1 lot. It's not really even the topic of conversation.
 2 But just so that you know about the shopping, and the
 3 parks, and everything else that, you know, we have to
 4 offer here in Tucson, Davis-Monthan is the third
 5 largest employer of southern Arizona. So it's because
 6 of them that we have all of these special and
 7 wonderful features that Tucson offers. Thank you.

8 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you.
 9 Guy Jossierand.

3163 TU

10 MR. JOSSERAND: Hello. My name is Guy
 11 Jossierand. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on
 12 this issue. I have a home in that area. I actually
 13 rent it our right near the grade school that got
 14 closed. And the current noise levels are really,
 15 really deafening, really unacceptable. My current
 16 tenant there has two small children in that area. I
 17 understand what this gentleman is talking about.
 18 Those houses were built in the '50s.

NO-8

19 And when these planes come over, the
 20 current noise level, the conversation stops. You
 21 can't hear the TV, and then when the planes finally go
 22 away, you stop hearing the noise, you hear car alarms
 23 all over the place. It's really an issue. She lives
 24 there because her day care is right in that area too.
 25 Perhaps the Air Force would like to just buy out that

NO-8

1 section of the city if they really -- if the economic
2 impact is so important for the city.

3 I'm certainly in favor of a strong
4 defense. I know that a strong defense is vital to
5 peace in the world and everywhere. Personal defense
6 is vital to my peace of mind. But I also know that a
7 strong defense also creates a lot of profiteering, and
8 I haven't heard that addressed too much today.

9 As you see on my shirt, I'm quite
10 concerned about the corruption in the government, and
11 in our nation in general. I think everybody -- I
12 think we're all concerned with that corruption. And
13 the truth is, to a great extent, we all profit from
14 it. There is a great deal of this economic input,
15 economic reasons for this plane coming here that is --
16 has to do with profiteering. The government -- a lot
17 of people feel, well, the government is too big --
18 well, let me go back.

19 We all remember what our President
20 Eisenhower said as his final words to our nation, to
21 be aware of the military industrial complex. It's a
22 juggernaut that is very difficult to keep from being
23 consumed by it. His first draft of that speech, I'm
24 told, actually said the military industrial government
25 complex. Now we are all individuals. We live our own

1 lives. And we depend on that complex, and we don't
2 want to be consumed by it. Thank you.

3 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, sir.
4 Kathleen Williamson.

3164 TU

5 MS. WILLIAMSON: Hi, I'm Kathleen
6 Williamson. I have lived in Tucson since 1986 and in
7 Arizona since 1974. I want to thank everybody for
8 coming out tonight and taking part in this. It's a
9 great society that we live in. We can speak to these
10 things, whatever side you're on. I especially want to
11 thank Carol Miller for coming all way from New Mexico
12 to speak tonight, and I have to concur with everything
13 that she had to say.

14 I have also personally suffered as a
15 result of the sound levels that already exist in
16 Tucson as a result of the military flyovers. My basic
17 summary of this would be that I don't want to suffer
18 two to four times more than what I've already put up
19 with since 1986.

NO-1

20 I've owned a home in Armory Park for
21 quite a while in the 1980s, and the flight patterns
22 weren't that bad there. They weren't that bad
23 actually in the 1980s. But then I bought a house in
24 1991 close to the university -- which predates
25 Davis-Monthan Air Force base by a long shot -- and I

1 got my juris doctorate and my Ph.D. from this
2 university.

3 While I was attending classes,
4 professors had to stop very frequently because you
5 couldn't -- he couldn't be heard or she couldn't be
6 heard in the classroom because of jets flying over.
7 That was particularly when the F-16s started coming to
8 town.

NO-8

9 I've been under the A-10 flight path
10 near the university for many years. I know we're
11 talking about Davis-Monthan at this point; however, I
12 have personally experienced what 90 decibels sounds
13 like, what 95 decibels sounds like. I bought a sound
14 decibel tester and went outside when these things were
15 flying over. And they were so frequent that I know
16 that I suffered; you know, my nerves, my blood
17 pressure and everything really started to take a toll
18 over that 20-year period that I lived under that
19 flight path, and I'm not even in the sound contour.

20 So when we talk about the harm to
21 people in the contour, I mean, we really need to take
22 into account that these planes are flying outside of
23 the contours and that the sound of them are spreading,
24 are fanning out significantly outside of the contours.

NO-62

25 I had a law office at home for many

1 years, and there were -- I'm telling you, so
2 frequently, not just once in a while. On a daily
3 basis, I had to stop telephone conversations so that I
4 could, you know, wait, hear the person on the other
5 end of the phone or for them to hear me, because the
6 jets were just so loud over my house, whether it was
7 A-10s, or F-16s flying, or Harriers, or whatever, all
8 the stuff that comes in.

NO-8

9 Now, because of that situation there, I
10 moved over to the A Mountain area. Now I'm finding
11 out that I may be subjected to the TIA F-35As. I'm
12 already feeling the effect of the F-16s, and I'm in
13 the contour. But they're loud, with the rumbling
14 taking off from jet fuel and so forth.

NO-1

15 So there's a cumulative effect that's
16 happening. There's also -- there's no time to do this
17 and I'll write a longer letter. But I think that the
18 -- I've looked over the summary of the EIS and there
19 are significant problems. I want to concur with a lot
20 of what was said tonight about that as well. The
21 sound modeling and computer modeling is a huge problem
22 because we live in a valley where sound reverberates
23 all over the place.

NO-38

24 Also, my neighbors south of there are
25 predominantly Spanish-speaking, and they are not aware

EJ-5

1 of what's going on. They have not been adequately
2 advised that they have an opportunity to speak to this
3 and to study it. Thank you.

EJ-5
cont'd

4 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you. I know we're
5 approaching 8:00. We've got about nine speakers that
6 have indicated that they would like to make comments.
7 I'm just going to go ahead and make a command call,
8 and go ahead and continue on so that everybody has a
9 chance to speak. It shouldn't take that long. So the
10 next will be Sarah VanSlyke.

3165 TU

11 MS. VanSLYKE: Hello. My name is Sarah
12 VanSlyke. I'm a native Tucsonan, and I am the
13 director of Desert Spring Children's Center and have
14 been for 25 years. Desert Spring is a nonprofit
15 preschool that serves 70 children a day, ages two to
16 five years old.

17 We hold the honor of being accredited
18 by the National Association for the Education of Young
19 Children. This is the highest accreditation in our
20 nation. There's 2,000 criteria with this
21 accreditation, and they focus on safety, health,
22 environment and best teaching practices.

23 Over the last 25 years, preschool
24 education has been my passion, and I have been blessed
25 to work with dedicated educators at my school and

1 throughout the community. As educators, we agree that
2 the constant daily noise of jets over our children is
3 harmful to their well being and development. Desert
4 Spring is located in the vibrant university area. And
5 with this location we serve many parents who are
6 professors at the university and they have to stop
7 their classes when the jets go over.

8 Unfortunately, the school is right
9 under the flight pattern, which is especially
10 difficult during the winter, when the Snowbird Program
11 is in Tucson. There are already too many jets that go
12 over the heads of the children on the playground. The
13 noise is already too much. They cover their ears,
14 they cry, they're disoriented. It is not good for
15 these little people to be surrounded by this noise on
16 a daily basis. And it starts about 1:30 in the
17 afternoon and it goes into the evening.

EJ-2
EJ-6

18 For children in pre-stress levels
19 caused by loud noises, toxic environments and feelings
20 of fear, it bathes their brains in stress hormones.
21 If the brain is exposed to too much of this chemical,
22 its functions are reduced, slowed, or stopped
23 altogether. From birth to seven, the human child is
24 growing 70 percent of her brain. High decibel
25 flyovers are putting these developing brains at risk.

1 When a child's day of learning,
 2 exploring and rest is interrupted by extremely loud
 3 and dangerous noise, her brain is negatively altered.
 4 The DEIS is not a complete evaluation about the
 5 decibel levels that children will be exposed to in
 6 Tucson. Children of all ages will be exposed. My
 7 high school daughter will be exposed. Thank you. I
 8 guess my time is up.

EJ-2
EJ-6
cont'd

9 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you. And I will
 10 apologize on this name, but it's Jamie Schremmer.

3166 TU

11 MS. SCHREMMER: Again, I'm stiff from
 12 sitting, but it's well worth it to get up and talk.
 13 I'd like to begin with the fact that, you know, when
 14 you say most people want the F-35, I say most people
 15 do not want the F 35. And someone said tonight that
 16 educators do not teach leadership, and that is wrong.
 17 I work in a school. I also would like to -- thank
 18 you.

19 I'd also like to say to the person from
 20 Rita Ranch, if you look at the fly map, there's a big
 21 sign on it that says, Do not fly Rita Ranch. And the
 22 pilots say they don't. And so if you live in Rita
 23 Ranch, you probably don't have much to complain about
 24 like the rest of us in central Tucson.

25 I say fly simulators. Pay off the

DO-5

1 national debt. I read on military.com that the F-35
 2 costs \$30,000 an hour to fly. The cheap ones only
 3 pay -- cost \$10,000 an hour to fly. That's a lot of
 4 money. That's millions and millions of dollars flying
 5 in and out of D-M alone. I was told that our air
 6 skies are underutilized. We only get one plane every
 7 five minutes, and in reality, we really should have
 8 one plane every 30 seconds. Think of that. Think of
 9 60,000 planes turning into 600,000 planes in our air
 10 every year.

DO-5
cont'd

11 I would like to say also that in the
 12 EIS it says, the sound -- the sound evaluations are
 13 set at 2,000 feet elevation. But in Tucson, planes
 14 fly at 1,000 feet or less, and there is no decibel
 15 levels for those elevations. Also, planes don't fly
 16 as one plane, they fly as many planes. They come in
 17 formation. And that also changes the sound. On
 18 military.com it says the F-35 has a nine mile sound
 19 wave, which is not addressed in any of the EIS.

NO-19

DO-47

NO-101

20 So I find that right now, I live eight
 21 miles from base. I don't live in a flight path. Yet
 22 I have planes over me from the time I wake up to the
 23 time I go to bed, and then they continue after. They
 24 do C formations. They do hairpin turns. They go
 25 north and south, and east and west, and every other

NO-62

1 direction. Yet, I don't live in the flight path. And
2 it's already shaking my windows and shaking my house,
3 and causing cracking of major structures in my
4 neighborhood. There's already a problem. Thank you.

NO-62
cont'd
NO-12

5 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, ma'am.
6 Joe Watkins.

3167 TU

7 MR. WATKINS: Thank you for the
8 opportunity to speak. My name is Joe Watkins. I'm a
9 well-trained member of the Tucson community, and I
10 want to talk about grandfathers. When the Air Force
11 came here many years ago, our great grandfathers lived
12 in a place with just propeller planes, and they had a
13 peaceful life.

14 In 1978, after the second single-engine
15 jet crashed near the University of Arizona -- and if
16 it wasn't for the grace of God and a very capable
17 pilot, hundreds of middle school children or
18 university students would have died.

19 The Air Force assured our grandfathers
20 that Tucson was now a big city and only suitable for
21 quiet double-engine jets. Let me repeat that. In
22 1978, a single-engine jet crashed. And if it wasn't
23 for the grace of God, hundreds of people would have
24 died. And the Air Force assured us that Tucson was a
25 place for only quiet double-engine jets.

SA-20

1 But with each new step, that Air Force
2 promise has been broken. And each time that happens,
3 "grandfather" has a new meaning. Don't worry. Your
4 property has been grandfathered. It's safe now. We
5 won't take your home. The grandfathering has done
6 that.

7 When the Operation Snowbird -- or when
8 the 1985 Thunderbirds came, we were told not to worry
9 because our property was grandfathered. We weren't
10 even bothered for the Operation Snowbird -- they
11 didn't even ask us if it was okay. We had to pressure
12 the citizens for over a decade. Now maybe we'll be
13 told that that will be okay, we'll be grandfathered.
14 Now they're adding helicopters, and next come the
15 drones.

16 But the EIS only thinks about these
17 things one at a time. It's time to think about these
18 things together. It's time to think about that our
19 ears don't hear each of these things separately. They
20 accumulate.

21 And next it's the F-35 coming to a
22 civilian airport with it's 40,000 pounds of thrust a
23 half-mile away from people dropping off their husbands
24 and wives who are frequent flyers, so maybe their jet
25 is talking off. But here you don't have to worry

CM-6

1 because you're grandfather can't hear anymore and
2 neither can you.

3 What concerns me the most about this
4 EIS is the way it fragments the way that we face these
5 things, the A-10, the C-130, the drones, the
6 Snowbirds. They all have an impact on our lives. But
7 you have to think about these things together. You
8 have to think about the cumulative aspect of these
9 things.

CM-6
cont'd

10 Our grandfathers didn't come here to
11 say, yes, find a nice place inside a house. They'll
12 make it sound proof for you so you can always be
13 inside. We came here to be outside. I ask you to
14 think about the cumulative effects of this noise.
15 Thank you.

CM-6

16 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, Mr. Watkins.
17 Jeff Ingram.

3168 TU

18 MR. INGRAM: My name is Jeff Ingram.
19 I'm a resident of Tucson. The alternatives put
20 forward in this draft do not take account of
21 operational options that could lower the negative
22 security, safety and environmental impacts of military
23 training activity on the larger populous areas of
24 metropolitan Arizona. In particular, such training
25 activity could be concentrated even more heavily at

DO-66

1 the Gila Bend airfield. It is ideally situated at the
2 edge of the Goldwater range, and the airspace provides
3 much greater freedom in training activity than over
4 populated areas.

DO-66
cont'd

5 The negative impacts of, for instance,
6 noise on people, are often cited. But the use of
7 airspace over populated areas also negatively impacts
8 the military's discretion in flight operations.
9 Greater use of Gila Bend Field would increase that
10 discretion. Investments in upgrading military
11 facilities contemplated for training activity under
12 this document could be spent at Gila Bend in order to
13 bring it up to any needed standard. These investments
14 would have a much longer useful life than at other
15 sites, since they would not be subject to the
16 degradation of their usefulness arising from the
17 population growth of metropolitan areas.

DO-20

18 Since the use of Gila Bend airfield is
19 already planned under the DIES, an alternative
20 intensifying that field's greater use is more of a
21 matter of incremental change over the next several
22 years, with improvements at the field being phased in
23 as training activity increases. An even more
24 future-oriented extension of this alternative would
25 aim toward maintaining the administrative and

DO-66
GE-1

1 residential functions of Luke and Davis-Monthan while
2 steadily increasing training activity, and even basing
3 and maintenance at Gila Bend by providing transport to
4 the airfield for training associated personnel.

DO-66
GE-1
cont'd

5 I urge that the training activity
6 considered in this draft EIS for any base in Arizona
7 be shifted to an upgraded Gila Bend airfield.

8 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you, sir.

9 Susan Pitt.

3169 TU

10 MS. PITT: I want to reiterate all the
11 other comments that were made. I'll just say right
12 off the bat that I'm opposed to the F-35 coming to TIA
13 because I think it would be a dangerous plane to have
14 in a metropolitan area, flying right over the city.

GE-4

15 But I would say I'm a life-long -- I
16 was born in Tucson. I've lived here all my life. My
17 father was in what they used to call the Army Air
18 Corps. And we've always -- Davis-Monthan has been
19 here since I can -- ever since I can remember. But we
20 never had the kinds of aircraft that were as dangerous
21 flying over the central city as we do now. And the
22 F-35 is certainly at the furthest limit.

NO-1
SA-1

23 One thing that I'd say about Tucson is
24 that we're multifaceted. We have a wonderful
25 university, as well as many wonderful destination

1 resorts. We have a lot of fabulous weather. So we
2 have a lot of -- a variety of economic interests in
3 Tucson that are important to protect.

4 And what will happen when this F-35
5 comes in, is -- it will devastate the tourism
6 industry, and also it will hurt the university
7 seriously, even though they won't -- powers that be
8 won't come out and say it. But if I were having a
9 young child come here to the university of -- my
10 granddaughter is coming next year to the university.

SO-7

EJ-2

11 I would hesitate to have them come here to school. I
12 think it would just, you know, not be a smart thing.

13 The war that we're having now, the wars
14 that we're fighting now aren't the kinds of wars that
15 an F-35A plane can help with. What we are fighting
16 now are wars on terrorism, and we need intelligent and
17 educated people to try to figure out how to prevent
18 those sorts of things.

PN-5

19 9/11 would not have been inhibited by
20 an F-35A. It would have been if we would have had
21 better intelligence, and we were able to, you know,
22 protect ourselves more that way, which we're going to
23 have to do in the future. So I just want to go on the
24 record as saying that I don't see any purpose in the
25 F-35 coming to Tucson. I think it would be a

GE-4

1 disaster.

GE-4
cont'd

2 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you.

3 Caroline Cowan.

3170 TU

4 MS. COWAN: I'm Caroline Cowan. And
5 just because it seems to be -- everybody says, "when
6 they moved here." We moved here in 1966, and I lived
7 on the west side of Tucson International Airport. And
8 I can already hear the Guard's jet engines when they
9 rev them up, and they do their afterburner thing. I
10 hear that now. They fly over my house going west and
11 they fly over my house landing. We're on the ILS
12 beacon between Ryan Airfield and Tucson International.
13 So we get it coming and going, and I am okay with
14 that.

15 I can also hear the train whistling.
16 And the trains whistle all day and night, the planes
17 don't. But I'm okay with the trains whistling too.

18 Davis-Monthan -- I wanted to go over
19 this, because people were saying that they couldn't
20 figure out where to move and not have the airplanes.
21 I'm not a Ph.D., but you know, I like where I live. I
22 also built my house from the ground up, through my own
23 house plans. It's made of stucco. It is not
24 cracking. It's not falling apart.

25 My horses don't even lift their heads,

1 the jets and the Border Patrol helicopters, you know,
2 they go down that way too. They fly right over my
3 house, going right over the Tucson Mountains. If my
4 horses are eating, those jets come over, the
5 helicopters come over, and the're flying low. My
6 horses don't even swish their tail or flip their ears.
7 I'm not concerned that the animals are going to have
8 to scurry into their holes when the planes come over
9 because they adapt and get used to everything.

10 I used to live down by 25th Street,
11 down by Randolf park. A had a house there for a
12 number of years. We were on a aircraft landing flight
13 for Tucson International there also. We'd see the
14 plane -- you'd look at the lights out of your windows,
15 and those landing lights would come right over our
16 heads.

17 Eventually we moved from there. If you
18 don't like where you're living, move. If you -- the
19 Air Force base was here during World War II, which was
20 pretty much before everybody except for my father, who
21 is still here. So I say let the planes fly. Bring
22 them on. Thank you.

GE-3

23 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you. And our last
24 speaker of the evening is Mr. Bill Scogin.

25 MR. SCOGIN: Thank you. I haven't been

3171 TU

1 drinking. I have a medical condition, that's why I
2 walk that way. Panel, thank you very much for the
3 opportunity to speak. I kind of signed up to speak
4 here at the very last minute because I've had an
5 opportunity to listen to everybody talk and voice
6 their opinions. That's the freedom we have, is to
7 come up here and voice an opinion.

8 I've been in Tucson 61 of my 62 and a
9 half years. I am Hispanic. My family grew up here.
10 So if I say anything and you wonder where that's
11 coming from, I know.

12 I watched this place grow. I used to
13 ride my bike to Davis-Monthan through the desert to
14 watch airplanes take off before everybody built their
15 house around there.

16 Now, I understand things changed. When
17 I used to ride to Davis-Monthan, Memorial overpass
18 wasn't there.

19 You know, things do change. And I
20 understand the inconveniences of noise. I lived down
21 by the University of Arizona, moved there eight years
22 ago. A choice, an educated choice I made. The trauma
23 helicopter, the ambulance on Campbell, the ambulance
24 on Grant almost every weekend, SalPointe High School
25 band and the football games on Friday, the University

1 of Arizona on Saturday. There were a lot of
2 inconveniences.

3 I keep hearing a lot of comments made
4 on the noise living by the university. That's
5 Davis-Monthan. What I understand, this has to do with
6 the 162nd. I joined the 162nd. I was a fifth-year
7 senior in 1971 when I joined the Guard. I retired
8 there in 2009. I've listened to the noise. I
9 understand the inconveniences.

10 When you look at economic impact from
11 any mission that's at the Guard, it's not just what
12 the 162nd provides, Raytheon benefits from that. I
13 have a lot of friends that work at Raytheon. What
14 would happen if that place is closed down?
15 Bombardier, they support Bombardier. We shared
16 equipment. What happened -- would would happen if
17 they got smaller? There's a lot of dynamics in here.
18 I understand the concerns. But I'm looking forward to
19 the F-35A, or any kind of impact to keep the mission
20 at the 162nd.

21 If someone can come up with an economic
22 method that is noise-free, that will provide us with
23 having the military here, do what it does for us, I'd
24 be glad to listen. But I do understand everybody's
25 opinion, and I appreciate them voicing it. Thank you.

GE-3

1 COLONEL ROAN: Thank you. Well, I
2 thank everyone for your time and interest in the F-35A
3 EIS proposal this evening.

4 Tonight is not the end of your
5 opportunity to participate in the environmental review
6 process. Written comment sheets are available at the
7 registration table. You can turn these sheets in
8 tonight, or mail or fax them later. The mailing
9 address is printed on the sheets themselves. The Air
10 Force welcomes public comments in writing during the
11 environmental impact analysis process. To receive
12 timely consideration for the final EIA, all comments
13 must be submitted by March 14th, 2012. Thank you
14 again, and good night.

15 (Public Hearing and Oral Commends
16 Concluded at 8:24 p.m.)
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25

1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
2 COUNTY OF PIMA)

3

4 I, Kimberly W. Gauthier, do hereby certify
5 that the foregoing Transcript of Proceedings constitutes a
6 true and accurate transcript of the proceedings held in the
7 foregoing matter, all done to the best of my skill and
8 ability.

9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
10 subscribed my name this 7th day of March, 2012.

11

12

13

Kimberly W. Gauthier
Kimberley W. Gauthier, RPR
Certified Reporter, Certificate No. 50567

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