

TRENT FRANKS
2ND DISTRICT, ARIZONA

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY READINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

DCN: 3073



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1237 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4576
FAX: (202) 225-6326

DISTRICT OFFICE:
7121 W. BELL RD., SUITE 200
GLENDALE, AZ 85308
(623) 778-7911
FAX: (623) 778-7932

www.house.gov/franks

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Mr. Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

While you and your colleagues on the BRAC commission are in the middle of your hard work on behalf of this nation's military, I wanted to take the opportunity to inform you that the State of Arizona was pleased when the Department of Defense indicated that it recognized the military value of Luke Air Force Base last month.

Luke AFB is an essential asset to the U.S. Military and a vital part of Arizona's West Valley economy. Since its inception in 1941, Luke has historically acted as a key factor in American military campaigns. And as you know, Luke continues to act as the primary training ground for F-16 pilots. It is my sincere belief that the sense of pride and level of productivity at Luke AFB is unmatched in the United States. As a champion of the 21st Century transformation of the military, I understand that military value is paramount in selecting which installations will be utilized in the future.

With its access to the Barry M. Goldwater Range and its settlement amidst the year-round Arizona training weather, Luke provides the Air Force with an excellent combination of facilities for the training of combat pilots. Indeed, Luke has at its disposal all the necessary tools to become the principal training ground for the Joint Strike Fighter in the coming generations.

There is no doubt that the long-term viability of Luke is in the best interest of Arizona and most importantly the U.S. Military. Thousands of devoted people have worked for years to ensure that Luke has everything it needs to prepare for its long-term utilization by the U.S. Air Force.

Thank you for your service on the BRAC Commission and to this country. I know that your vital efforts will go a long way in helping our forces meet the military challenges of the 21st Century.

Most sincerely,

Trent Franks
Member of Congress