



Saint Louis County

Sheriff's Office • 100 N. Fifth Ave. West, Room 103 • Duluth, MN 55802
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Gordon Ramsay
Sheriff

October 19, 2026

The Honorable Troy E. Meink
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330-1670

Delivered via email: Kristen.Lauge.mil@army.mil

RE: Support For 148th Fighter Wing in Consideration of F-35 Lightning II Mission

Dear Secretary Meink:

I am writing to support selecting the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth for the F-35 Lightning II mission. As St. Louis County Sheriff and former Duluth Police Chief, I value the relationship our local public safety agencies have with the 148th. Our county covers roughly 7,500 square miles, and responding to major emergencies requires agencies to work together and the 148th has been a dependable partner in that effort.

Over the years, the 148th has hosted training opportunities for the Sheriff's Office and other local agencies. Its fire department works closely with local fire departments, our emergency management staff, and the Sheriff's Office on incident response, training, and airport sheltering. In addition, the 148th annual Emergency Operations Center relocation exercise helps build those relationships and gives us an opportunity to practice a joint emergency response. Working through these situations together helps us understand what each agency can provide and how we would coordinate during an actual emergency.

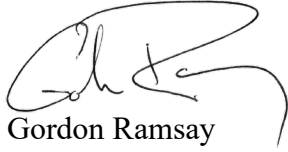
148th also has an appreciated and established MOU with the St. Louis County Public Health to be a dispensing/receiving entity for medical countermeasures in the event of an emergency. The 148th extends assistance to distribute medical countermeasures and supplies to those facilities/agencies that have closed POD agreements with us as they have the security, space, and where with all to accept such large shipments from the national stockpile. These are practical contributions that help us prepare for and respond to emergencies.

The people serving at the 148th and their families are part of our community. We appreciate their service and the work they do here at home. We want to see the 148th remain strong in Duluth for years to come.

Please give the 148th Fighter Wing your full consideration for the F-35 mission. It has my

support, and the Sheriff's Office looks forward to continuing our partnership.

Respectfully,



Gordon Ramsay
St. Louis County Sheriff

Reply to:

☐ **Public Safety Building**
2030 N Arlington Ave
Duluth, MN 55811
Phone: (218) 336-4379
Fax: (218) 336-4370

☐ **County Jail**
4334 Haines Rd.
Duluth, MN 55811
Phone: (218) 726-2345
Fax: (218) 725-6134

☐ **Emergency Management**
5735 Old Miller Trunk Hwy.
Duluth, MN 55811
Phone: (218) 625-3960
Fax: (218) 625-3965

☐ **Sheriff's Office**
300 S. 5th Ave.
Virginia, MN 55792
Phone: (218) 471-7134
Fax: (218) 471-7192

☐ **Sheriff's Office**
1810 12th Ave. E.
Hibbing, MN 55746
Phone: (218) 312-8134
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