Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Mary Provencher |
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2013 9:05 AM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Fwd: Burlington Free Press eEdition Article

Begin forwarded message:

From: No Reply <noreply@newsmemory.com>

Subject: Burlington Free Press eEdition Article

Date: July 16, 2013 7:19:29 AM EDT

To:

sent you this article.

Burlington Free Press 07/16/2013, Page B06

MY TURN

F-35 basing is incompatible with human rights

ASHLEY WOLF

I am writing as a member of the Vermont Workers' Center Coordinating Committee, but first, and foremost, as a member of the Burlington community. As such, I feel it is imperative to address the rudimentary ways the stationing of F-35 war planes in the Burlington community not only infringes on the fundamental human rights of the Burlington community in myriad ways, but represents a more systemic form of oppression that I know does not align with the values of our community.

I would like to share the Vermont Workers' Center official statement we wrote of why we oppose this: The Vermont Workers' Center urges our congressional delegation to stand up against the stationing of the F-35 war plane at Burlington Airport and against the wasteful and dangerous military policy of the U.S. government. A great many local residents and community groups have opposed basing the F-35 in Burlington for a great many reasons. Today, the Vermont Workers' Center is announcing its position in opposition to the war planes for two core reasons grounded in human rights principles.

1. Our government is responsible for using public funds for public goods, not for weapons of war. Public funds must be used first and foremost to meet the fundamental needs of our communities. Yet even in this time of economic recession and increasing poverty, the biggest

part of the federal budget continues to go toward military spending, including weapons of war such as the F-35. We call upon our government to redirect these public funds toward the public goods that help meet the significant unmet needs in our communities, such as health care, housing, jobs, education, food and social security.

The misplaced and wasteful spending on war planes is a prime example of why we need a People's Budget that respects our human rights and has the clear purpose of advancing equity and dignity in our communities. Instead of cutting federal, state and local budgets, and eliminating much-needed public services and programs, our representatives must review the economically and environmentally unsustainable effects of out-of-control military spending. Burlington must not become another victim of behind-thescenes deal making that puts special interests before the rights of the people.

2. Public development policies and subsidies must benefit our community as a whole. Any development initiative must be grounded in the human rights of our communities and advance equity and dignity among all residents. Among the greatest development needs in Burlington are affordable, safe housing and good, sustainable jobs. Stationing of war planes in a densely populated residential neighborhood has already led to a loss of over 200 homes, and this proposal could lead to thousands more lost, in an area where many people are unable to realize their basic human right to affordable housing.

Development initiatives must never be conceived as a trade-off between different community needs, such as housing or jobs, economic development or environmental protection. Moreover, in this case, the military program is not expected to generate sustainable and good jobs for local residents. Yet its potential human rights violations are clear: high noise levels will pose significant health risks for residents, schoolchildren and churchgoers in large parts of our town. The F-35's excessive fossil fuel consumption will contribute to climate change, jeopardizing our right to a healthy environment and livable planet.

We call on our elected officials to stop the proposed stationing of F-35 war planes in Burlington or anywhere else in Vermont or the United States. We call for public policies that protect our human rights, meet the needs of our communities, and enable the participation of all people in the policy decisions that affect our ability to live a life with dignity Ashley Wolf lives in Burlington.

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Kara Schwartz
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2013 9:24 AM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: "I am opposed to the F35 basing in Burlington, VT".

"I am opposed

to the F35 basing in Burlington, VT".

I am opposed to the F35 Basing in Vermont because:

1. It will harm 1,500 Vermont children: physically, emotionally and cognitively] NO-12

2. It will lower the home values of 4,000 households] SO-1

3. It will degrade and possibly destroy the quality of life of 8,000 people] GO-3

4. It will risk the lives of thousands of people because of a greater probability of crashes from a warplane with no established safety record] SA-2

5. It disproportionately negatively affects minorities and low-income people] EJ-1

6. It will pollute our environment] AQ-1

7. The AF says the F-35 will bring environmental harm to our communities

8. The AF says that Burlington is NOT the environmentally preferred base

9. Substantive errors were made in the scoring process] PA-1

10. Substantive errors were made in the Draft EIS] GP-17

11. There are many unanswered questions about the base selection process] PA-1

kara Schwartz

GS-1

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Nathan Moreau
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2013 1:32 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F35, Burlington VT

Hello Sir,

Thank you for your time in the F35 base decision. I promise to keep my comments brief and lacking emotion. I am a native of this area and enjoy the keen insight of a proud Vermont tradition of fiscal conservatism and socially liberal. I have no dog in this fight, pro or con but it seems prudent to me to base the jets here, as we have proudly hosted the F16.

It appears the loudest voices of either side is what we up here call "flatlanders", be it the common loon or the fervent eagle. If the F35 makes sense to be based here, we Vermonters will do what we have done since the Revolution and Gettysburg, roll up our sleeves and pitch in. Sorry if you have to sift through useless chatter, thank you for your service.

Sincerely,
Nathan Moreau

GO-1

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Star Mitchell
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 10:39 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: NO F35 BASING IN BURLINGTON, VT!!!

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I am opposed to the F35 basing in Burlington, VT because it will harm children, adults, and the elderly physically, emotionally, and cognitively; it will lower the value of homes; it will destroy the quality of life for 8,000+ people; it will risk the lives of thousands of people because of the probability of crashes from warplanes; it will pollute the environment; it will bring environmental harm to the community; the AF says Burlington is NOT the environmentally preferred base; substantive errors were made in the scoring process and in the Draft EIS; there are many unanswered questions about the base selection process; and it will disproportionately negatively affect minorities and low-income people.

For the above reasons, I say NO, NO, NO to the F35 basing in Burlington, VT! Please grant an extension of the Public Comment period based upon the fact that at lease 100 pages of important information were not released until nearly 3 weeks after the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released.

Star Mitchell

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Sheila Gmail
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 10:44 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: OPPOSE F-35 BASE in VT

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed F-35A basing in Vermont. While I generally appreciate the efforts of the Air Guard (specifically in their domestic duties) I do not place more importance on an airplane then the ~7000 people whose homes fall in the 65dB DNL zone (and whose homes will thereby be designated as "not suitable for residential use") or the ~55,000 people who live in the nearby communities of Burlington, South Burlington and Winooski and for whom the airport and the guard's aircraft represent a large single point source of air, water and noise pollution.

I also am opposed to the entire JSF program given its rapidly rising costs and the skewed national priorities that the program represents. I would prefer my country spend its money not invading other countries and staffing and outfitting the most expensive military in the world but instead on providing services domestically, like renewable energy infrastructure, tax funded education, tax funded healthcare, mass transit, support for organic agriculture, and regulation to bring corporations under the control of the people (instead of the other way around). I am also not supportive of a military that is hostile to the notion of eliminating sexual assault among its ranks.

I don't want the F-35A in Vermont, and if the government won't end this wasteful weapons program then I urge you to award the basing to another station where the impact will be far less.

Thank you for your time.

Sheila Poettgen

GO-1

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Rachel Brydolf-Horwitz
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 10:50 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35s in Burlington VT

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I'd like to express that as a resident of Burlington, VT, I have grave concerns about the plan to station the new F35 planes out of the Burlington airport.

In addition to the controversy surrounding the initial selection of Burlington, I am concerned about the effects of the planes on property values, and the fact that the noise levels, possible dangers, and general inconvenience of the new planes seem to fall disproportionately on lower income areas, especially the town of Winooski. SO-1

The selection process seems to have been pursued hastily, without due consideration of some of the consequences of the noise and safety impact of the louder and still imperfect F35. I'm not sure these jets should be stationed in such a populated area until they have been adequately tested and vetted, and until more is known about the effects of this level of noise on humans.

Considering the acknowledged "fudged" selection process and the vocal support of powerful VT politicians, the choice of Burlington seems to be based on a set of factors and motivations that depart from the essential question of "where is the best and safest place to station the F35." I ask that you reconsider stationing the F35s here. PA-1

Thank you for your time,

Rachel Brydolf-Horwitz

GO-1

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Eugene Palombo
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 10:51 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Opposed to F-35 Basing at Burlington Vermont

Hello Mr. Germanos, I'm writing to express my opposition to the basing of F-35's here at Burlington VT.
A war machine of this caliber does not belong in a residential neighborhood such as mine.
The existing F-16's already present their own challenges to peace, quiet and civility.
I work from home, on the phone, and I can tell you that the interruptions are more than just six minutes a day as some claim.

It is also fairly common knowledge that the scoring numbers were fixed to make this place appear more attractive. PA-1
Please do the right and honorable thing by treating us with the truth, and base these planes at a more suitable site.
There's a reason why this area did not score as high as some would have us believe, so do the right thing and base these planes elsewhere.

This decision should not be made for politically tainted reasons, but with sound Air Force judgement.
Follow your criteria, and do this community the service they are owed.

Regards,
Gene Palombo

GO-1

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Jeffrey Tonn
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 10:57 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Cc: britta fenniman
Subject: Burlington F-35 bed down

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I am a resident of Winooski, VT. I live with my wife and 3 month old son at 29 Railroad Lane. We are a young family, and we are opposed the bed down of the F-35 at the Burlington International Airport.

Noise levels four times louder than the current noise levels produced by the F-16 are unimaginable. Under current conditions, we must stop talking and cover the ears of our son whenever an F-16 passes over.

The F-35 is inappropriate for a dense city such as Winooski. The other sites considered in the DEIS have less dense populations in the 65 dnl, and the residents are much more welcoming of the plane. They are better suited to host the F-35.

Thank you,

Jeffrey Tonn

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

GO-1

From: bunny daubner
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 10:58 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Save Our Skies

Dear Sir,

I am opposed to the F35 basing in Burlington, VT.
The AF says the F35 would bring environmental harm to our communities.
There are many unanswered questions about the base selection process.

Sincerely,
Bunny Daubner

--
Bunny Daubner

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

GO-1

From: David Weissberger
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 11:01 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35 basing decision

Mr. Germanos,

I write to add my name to the list of those opposed to the basing of the new F-35 fighter plane at the VTANG unit at Burlington airport. I live in Winooski with my wife and one year old son. We understand that the new planes will be much louder than the current F-16's that the guard flies and that "noise mitigation" may not be as effective with these heavier planes that need their afterburners to get airborne on every landing. We are further concerned by what we hear of the safety record of these new planes and the potential for crashes in the most densely populated area of Vermont. We are upset that the poorest, most vulnerable members of our community are being asked to make the majority of these sacrifices by the political and commercial elite of Vermont. We are concerned about the process by which Burlington was selected as the most appropriate site for the F-35s. Inaccurate scoring, outdated or misreported data, and more seem to indicate a shoddy process or purposeful manipulation of the results under political pressure. Most of all, we are worried about the effect this increased level of noise will have on the town in general and our son in particular. By the air force's own study, much of Winooski will fall into a category of "unfit for residential use". What will this do to property values in town. Will people be able to sell their houses under such a pall? In individual terms, many studies seem to confirm the detrimental effect of regularly occurring loud noises on the cognitive development of young children. For all these reasons, we oppose the basing of the F-35's at Burlington.

SA-1

PA-1

SO-3

NO-12

We do support the Air National Guard of Vermont. Perhaps there are other missions that would be more appropriate for this unit?

Thank you for your time,

David Weissberger

GO-1

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Loretta Dow Marriott
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 11:07 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: I oppose F-35s for BTV

Mr. Germanos,

I oppose the basing of F-35s at BTV due to the social injustice of imposing the risks and discomforts of these war planes on low/modest income households while business and political interests distant from the airport anticipate (perhaps incorrectly) reaping profits.

Loretta Marriott

GO-1

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: brittfenr
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 11:12 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Burlington F-35 bed down

>
> Dear Mr. Germanos,
>
> I am a resident of Winooski, VT. I live with my husband and 3 month old son at 29 Railroad Lane. We are a young family, and we are opposed the bed down of the F-35 at the Burlington International Airport.
>
> Noise levels four times louder than the current noise levels produced by the F-16 are unimaginable. Under current conditions, we must stop talking and cover the ears of our son whenever an F-16 passes over.
>
> The F-35 is inappropriate for a dense city such as Winooski. The other sites considered in the DEIS have less dense populations in the 65 dnl, and the residents are much more welcoming of the plane. They are better suited to host the F-35.
>
> Thank you,
>
> Britta Tonn
>
>

GO-1

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: VeraSafe Support Team
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 11:14 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Regarding the F-35 in Burlington

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I represent VeraSafe, a leading Vermont-based website trust and security organization. We strongly support our community, and in particular, the children. We are concerned about the impacts of the F35 on the health of our community and we respectfully ask that you withdraw Burlington from consideration for the basing of the F-35.

Best,

Jillian Rios

GS-1

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: keithcart
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 11:21 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: RE: F-35

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I am writing to voice my support for the F-35 in Vermont. Having lived in Vermont since 1985, I appreciate your time and effort to locate this aircraft in the Green Mountain State. My father was a Navy Commander, so I am quite familiar with the importance of having a strong military with the right equipment.

Sincerely,

William A. Keithcart

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: pgarrech
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 11:20 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F35 Burlington, VT

Dear Mr. Germanos,
I do not support basing the F35 at the Burlington International Airport. Specifically, I am concerned about the negative effects on health, quality of life, and property values. I would prefer that you base the F35 in a less populated area.

Thank you for your time and for your service.

Peter Garrecht

GO-1

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Tronofamily4
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 11:26 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F35 at VTANG Comments
Attachments: f35 letter 7.15.13.pdf

Dear Mr. Nicholas Germanos,

I submit the attached letter and this note as explanation of why the F35s should not be based at Vermont Air National Guard (VTANG). The attached letter is the same one I sent to you about a year ago. It's unfortunate that the Air Force and VTANG have failed to answer some serious questions that myself and other opponents have asked in the last few years of this debate, and that my letter of last year still applies.

The Air Force's lack of transparency and incorrect data regarding the negative health effects of average noise levels above 65 dB are some of the reasons this selection process has been flawed. The Air Force claims that VTANG is the preferred site, yet you refuse to release the scoring sheets for McEntire and Jacksonville ANG bases, and after gross errors were pointed out to the Air Force in the VTANG scoring sheet, after a year of stalling, the Air Force conveniently makes up a story that other factors, never mentioned until now, helped to rank VTANG as a preferred site. Lets see this scoring process and calculations in writing, so we can see for ourselves. I don't believe for one minute that there are any calculations that could possibly show that VTANG could be a preferred site. This nonsense about it being less expensive to base at VTANG is also insulting to one's common sense when you consider that the F35 program is going to be more than a Trillion dollar program, any savings at VTANG are a drop in the bucket compared to the overall program cost, and when you consider all the people who live within the 65 dB zone around VTANG who's lives will be negatively affected it's even more insulting. The Air Force's contention that scientific data indicates no negative health effects from average noise levels below 75 dB is wrong and not based on current data. The World Health Organization sites multiple studies done in the last ten years by the leading sound and airport noise experts that all clearly indicate that average noise levels of 65 dB and higher do have negative health and learning effects on people. NO-16

VTANG's misinformation that they will take sound mitigation actions that will make the F35's not sound any louder than the current F16's is a lie with no facts on F35 sound mitigation noise levels at VTANG, or anywhere else for that matter, to back the claim up. Just like the "preferred site" scoring sheets and scoring process...if it's not in writing....it's a fabrication that makes the entire F35 basing decision unfair and dishonest. NO-1

The Air Force, VTANG, and Vermont's cowardly Congressional Delegation who all refuse to face their constituents and answer questions regarding their positions supporting F35's at VTANG, have yet to answer the biggest questions that homeowners, like myself, who live within the 65 dB zone around VTANG have; What are you going to do to protect my family from the negative health effects that will result from noise created by the F35's? and; How will you compensate me for my lost property value resulting from the United States Government, through the FAA, labeling my home "unsuitable for residential use" which I will have to disclose to future buyers and which will prevent future buyers from getting HUD backed loans to buy my house? SO-4 SO-3

I can only hope that the Air Force shows some last minute common sense, and puts the health and quality of life of the 10,000 Vermonters who live within the 65 dB zone that would be

created by F35's at VTANG, before the slight inconvenience of F35's flying around commercial air traffic on the southeast coast and the "supposed" slightly higher bed down cost at McEntire and Jacksonville ANG. Only 25 homes lie within the 65 dB zones at both McEntire and Jacksonville ANG bases combined. The F35's are not welcome at VTANG by many Vermonters. Compare this to the warm welcome you'll receive from the communities around McEntire and Jacksonville ANG when you choose one of those bases for the first F35 beddown.

At least the Air Force should skip VTANG as a first beddown selection, wait until the F35's are operational, and then consider VTANG a second time when the Air Force and VTANG could better answer all the concerns and questions of opponents, actually fly a F35 at VTANG so that Vermonters affected by the noise could hear them before they buy into them, and VTANG could actually demonstrate for us how well their sound mitigation "theory" really works. Remember if you do choose VTANG as the first basing location of operational F35's, Vermonters who believe they have been wronged will only grow stronger in will and numbers, and if you think you've had some bits of bad PR coming out of Vermont so far during this process, it will be your worse public relations nightmare if you chose to beddown F35's at VTANG. In the long run, the Air Force, Vermonters, and the nation would be much better off if a more appropriate mission (drones or a general aircraft repair facility, or anything else you think would be a better fit) was chosen for the VTANG. The VTANG and Vermonters deserve a better and less divisive mission than the F35's.

Sincerely,

Stephen Trono

July 15, 2013

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ ACC/A7PS
129 Andrews St., Suite 337
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

GO-3

Dear Mr. Germanos:

I am against basing the F35s at Vermont Air National Guard ("VTANG") for the following reasons:

1. The Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") and the decision making process to base the F35s at VTANG are flawed. The socio-economic and wildlife impact sections of the EIS lack negative economic impact analysis case studies on property values and health and scientific data to back up statements about wildlife adaptation to higher noise levels. BR-4

2. Information has not been provided . Air Force representatives were supposed to be at the Public Hearing on May 14, 2012 to answer questions regarding the EIS and they were not. PI-4 The F35 Scoring Matrix for Basing Decision at VTANG does not make sense: VTANG should not have been scored 10 out of 16 points for environmental. I still haven't been able to get the Scoring Matrix for McEntire ANG and Jacksonville ANG and therefore I cannot confirm that the decision to award VTANG the "preferred site" status was fair and accurate. PA-1

3. The EIS states that the increased noise of F35s compared to F16s would be 3 to 5 times louder (Vol. 1, page E.S11, Table 6-7) and the F35s are more likely than an F16 to crash due to minimal operational time. The F35s carry a lot more fuel than the F16s with external tanks, making them more dangerous and more likely to harm Lake Champlain when emergencies call for fuel to be dumped before landing. SB1-7 It is clear after reading the EIS that the F35 is not suited to be stationed at an Air National Guard base closely surrounded by heavily populated neighborhoods (mostly lower to middle income, in the case of VTANG). The health, safety and economic well being of Vermonters will be negatively affected by the substantial increase in noise from the F35s, especially those 1,366 households (compared to a total of 25 households at both McEntire ANG and Jacksonville ANG combined) within the increased 65 dB zone caused by basing 24 F35s at VTANG, needs great consideration as part of the basing decision. Although mission and operational considerations are important, negatively affecting the lives of 1,366+ households, a college, an elementary school and several churches is unjust.

   It is not fair to these people that the F35 basing would cause their living/working environments and homes to be classified as "unsuitable for residential use" by the FAA. HUD insured mortgages as not given for purchases of homes within a 65-76 dB zone making it much harder for these homeowners to sell their properties. The Air Force will

not be buying out any of these 1,366 affected homes. These 1,366 homeowners will be stuck living with unhealthy noise levels in devalued homes that they cannot sell and that the Air Force will not compensate them for.

4. It is unfair for the Air Force to claim it is necessary to base the F35s at VTANG in the name of a "national defense need" because there are other Air National Guard bases that are suitable for F35 beddowns and America would not be any less safe if F35s were not based at VTANG. Basing F35s at VTANG would be a borderline violation of the fifth amendment rights of the 1,366 homeowners whose life, liberty and property values would be in a way deprived from them as a result of the U.S. Government's and Air Force's decisions to base F35s at VTANG.

5. Members of the VTANG and their fellow Vermonters that support them, including those neighbors who live around the VTANG facility deserve better from the United States Air Force. The Air Force decision to consider VTANG a "preferred site" for the F35 beddown has divided a patriotic community of Vermonters and put VTANG in the possible position of becoming bad neighbors by negatively affecting the health and economic well being of 1,366+ of its closest neighbors. If the Air Force selects VTANG for a F35 beddown, VTANG (with its high performance rating) and Vermonters who support VTANG deserve to be given an alternative mission that is better suited for VTANG and its surrounding neighbors. VTANG deserves a mission that does not divide Vermonters and treat some homeowners unjustly. VTANG and its neighbors deserve a new mission that all patriotic Vermonters, including VTANG members and surrounding homeowners can unite around and fully support, while being fair to all parties involved.

Sincerely,

Steve Trono

cc: Kathleen Ferguson

BURLINGTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

29 Church St., Suite 3-5
Burlington, Vermont 05401
802-863-1175

The Burlington Business Association, founded in 1978, is a non-profit, non-political membership organization with 200 business and non-profit members.

Our mission is to enhance and promote the economic vitality of Burlington, Vermont, and to assure that the City of Burlington continues as the cultural, social, political, educational and economic center of northwestern Vermont.

Board of Directors:

Tom Brassard, Chair
Leslee MacKenzie, Vice Chair
Al Gobeille, Secretary
Zandy Wheeler, Treasurer
Pat Burns
Richard Deane
David Farrell
Jim Fogler
Tim Halvorson
Bobbe Maynes
Maria McClellan
Stephanie Miller Reiskin
Jeff Nick
Kevin Owens
David Provost
Brigitte Ritchie
Kathleen Schirling
Russ Scully
Perry Sporn

Kelly Devine
Executive Director

Jeff McLaughlin
Communications &
Membership Manager

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ ACC/A7PS
129 Andrews St., Suite 337
Langley AFB VA 23665-9900

Dear Mr. Germanos,

On behalf of the Burlington Business Association, an organization that represents over 260 businesses in the Burlington area, please accept our full support of siting the F-35A program at the existing Air National Guard Station in South Burlington, VT.

There are almost 150 employees from The Vermont Air National Guard living in our community with an additional 450-plus living in the Greater Burlington area. It is safe to assume that many of these people are coming to Burlington to dine, shop, and for recreational purposes. In order to sustain our thriving community it is critical to keep these well-paying jobs for qualified citizens.

The Vermont Air National Guard program is responsible for over 1,000 jobs that represent over $50 million in payroll annually. In addition, the F-35A program would bring several millions of dollars worth of services to the airport; services that are currently provided by the F-16 program and are critical to our airport's bottom-line.

We understand how beneficial the airport is to our community and that the success of the airport is a key component to economic growth in the region. The F-35A program will bring quality jobs, create more business, and bring significant support to the airport.

The Burlington Business Association is a public supporter of siting the F-35A program in our community. We appreciate VTANG and want to keep its staff and service members as a part of our thriving community.

Sincerely,

Kelly Devine
Executive Director
Burlington Business Association

Gerard E. Proulx

Dear Mr. Germanos, 07/10/2013

I'm writing you to state that I do not believe the F-35's would be a good fit for the residents around the Burlington International Airport simply because the area has become extremely residential over the past 50 years. Where there was farmland are many homes now. The landscape has changed dramatically and the noise produced by these new fighter jets will take its toll on everyone who lives here without question.

I do respect what the Air Guard has meant to the Vermont economy and our country's security—but I believe it has run its course here and should be stationed somewhere in a more appropriate setting.

I live in the 65 DLB (since 1996) and my house has now been deemed "unlivable" by our government—leaving me little choice but to sell to the Airport at some point down the line—along with 200 of my neighbors.

My neighborhood has been destroyed—it is not coming back. Many, many good people lived here and were forced to leave—it is a sad situation.

Lastly, I attended and spoke at the meeting at Chamberlin school earlier this week. This "new" city council basically ignored 2/3rds of the residents who spoke out against the proposed F 35's and voted in favor of them.

Again, another sad display of special interest over the community—and I'm sorry to see it happen.

I reiterate, I have the utmost respect for our Air Guard—just not the new jets.

Sincerely,

Gerard Proulx

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Tiki Archambeau
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 10:08 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Why I oppose the F35 in Burlington, VT

Greetings,

Thank you for accepting public input about basing the F35s in Burlington, VT.

I an writing to express my strong opposition to basing the F35s here in our peaceful town of Burlington, VT. Why?

* Health: The noise range will note expand the current range that includes F16s with afterburners. That means more people pausing many times per day to let bombers that are already outdated take off and perform routines over skies belonging to Vermont's most populated and economically thriving region.
* Environment: There is no room for error at Burlington airport. Meaning, the Air Force will not have the luxury of years under its belt to ensure this plane will not crash land at an airport literally surrounded by homes and businesses. While one accident is too many no matter the location, it is magnified exponentially at Burlington airport around which such an enormous population resides.
* Children: Loud noises have extra significance for children. While a small percentage of them may enjoy the sound, most cower in fear and trip over each other running for a safe place or into a parents' comforting arms. Is that the kind of place the Air Force wants as neighbors?

There are many more reasons but I will keep it short for now. Please stop this project from proceeding at Burlington, VT.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tiki Archambeau

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

GO-1

From: Damon Lane
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 10:12 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Please do not base the F-35 in Burlington, VT

Mr Germanos,

As a resident of Burlington, VT I oppose basing fighter jets here. It is unclear to me,\ why an airport unusually close to a city would even be considered for military aircraft. The airport is within a residential area, near the center of South Burlington, and close enough to downtown Burlington that the existing F-16s often require conversations to pause. Those living closer to the airport are surely affected more. Additionally, it is surprising that a location far in one corner of the nation, along a peaceful border would be chosen. I previously worked an an engine manufacture for the F-35 which was a prototype at the time, and while I am amazed at the technology, I do not think Burlington is an appropriate place for the planes.

Damon Lane

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Barbara Lyman
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 10:20 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35's in Vermont

GS-1

Dear Sir: The following is an example of the Some of the mentality you are dealing with in Vermont. Please know that not all of us think that way!!
Trixie Hikel <mailto:hikelbreck@gmavt.net> - Tyler Bridge Rd, Hinesburg
F-35 Jets
My summer retirement job involves working outside in Williston, and a week or so ago, after several mornings of repeated, deafening, overfly exercises by the F-16s, I called my congresspeople to complain.
This is nothing more than an excess of testosterone. It does nobody any good whatsoever. Remind me what use the so-called fighter jets have been lately?
(Like on Sept 11, 2001??) What are they for, exactly? Shooting unwanted planes out of the sky? Terrorizing enemy villages? Do they even carry ordinance (bombs)? What is the plan, here, for all this expensive and seemingly useless hardware? Exactly how are they 'protecting us'? Please explain.
Not that they don't look like a whopping lot of fun to fly, or even to ride in; but we are back in the testosterone camp again.
They should indeed be based in Utah, or Limestone, Maine, or somewhere far from any acoustic trauma zone.
So no, I am not buying the uncritical patriotic stance that says whatever the armed forces want, they should get. I want some accountability on the exact reasons for this excess of noise & combustion.
Katharine Hikel, MD (now in Perennials)

I spent most of my life in Poquoson, Virginia, right across the creek from Langley Air Force Base. The few second noise of the fighter jets never bothered me or my children. My children and all others I knew in my neighborhood suffered no consequence as described lately in the Burlington Free Press. The big spray planes didn't even bother me. I salute the planes as they fly over and marvel in the professionalism of the United States Air Force and other military services. We need the F-35's in Vermont. It's so logical and certainly will help the economy in Burlington. The biggest complainers knew they bought real property next to an International Airport. I hope that the Air Force will not be discouraged at the loud voices of the minority. My husband and I both admire and respect our military. The planes are the sound of pride and freedom. Freedom isn't free but it's worth the effort. Please keep up your efforts to bring the F-35's to the Green Mountain Boys and the Burlington area. Everyone I have talked to wants them to be here. If there is anything we can do to promote the F-35's, please let me know.

Barbara and David Lyman

GO-1

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: lucy abair
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 10:22 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35 opinion

Why not send them to Plattsburgh where the economy would benefit and the population is much smaller..... PA-5

This is a bad deal for so many people...just stop now

Lucy Abair,

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Anonymous
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 10:25 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Opposing the Burlington, VT F35s

Hi there,

I wanted to send a brief note to let you know that I oppose basing the F35 fighter planes in Burlington. I have a two-year-old son and although we live about 5 miles from the airport close to downtown Burlington, he trembles in fear when the F16s use their afterburners to take off from Burlington airport. And the F35s are said to be louder than that!

My son is sensitive to noise. We can't even get close to a concert without him crying and needing to be taken away immediately. With F35s flying overhead, there will be no escape. We will be forced to move from this idyllic setting - and we are closer to downtown than the airport!

Please do not let the Air force base their F35s here.

Thank you,
Beckie Taylor

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Nancy Effron
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 10:27 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Against stationing F35 in Burlington, Vermont

I am writing to request that you DO NOT choose Burlington, Vermont to station the F35 aircraft. I feel that it is extremely unfair to put such a sophisticated, experimental, loud aircraft in a small town that has neighborhoods in such close proximity to the airport. The noise from the current F16 is not just heard in and South Burlington but other adjacent towns as well. I can only imagine the impact that a plane 4 times as loud would have. Considering all the unknowns i.e. noise, environmental, and safety issues (there is an elementary school within a 5-10 minute walk from the runways and untold numbers of children who live and sleep at the same distance) this plan just does not fit into our environment.

I am asking you to please choose a place for this plane to be stationed where it doesn't impact such a large percentage of this city. You may think Burlington is tops on your list because the infrastructure is already there, but I firmly believe the cost to the people who reside here will ultimately be much greater.

Respectfully,
Nancy Effron

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: mmmvt1
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 10:32 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Proposed F35 Basing in Burlington, VT
Attachments: Letter_to_Nicholas_Germanos_July_15_EA.docx; Eastern_Spiny_Softshell_Turtle_Recovery_Plan.pdf

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I have attached my comments and also embedded them below regarding the proposed F35 basing in Vermont.

Please acknowledge receipt, and thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,
Eileen Andreoli

****

July 15, 2013

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ ACC/A7PS
129 Andrews St., Suite 332
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed F35 fighter jets in Burlington VT and request that Vermont be withdrawn from consideration from this basing.

I live and work in one of the areas that will be most impacted by the substantially increased noise corridor of the F35s, and the impact on vulnerable residential populations, especially those of children, low income, minorities, refugees and homeless veterans, is an unacceptable outcome of this proposed basing.

This military aircraft does not belong in such a densely populated residential area, despite whatever perceived benefits there might be in the areas of location for training purposes. The matter of its strategic preference in terms of location is questionable, since the F35s would need to travel hundreds of miles over land before it could access the open ocean waters needed for its subsonic and supersonic training flights. Also in question is the overall mission of this aircraft to defend the nation's skies against invading forces. It is unclear which country may be threatening an air attack for which basing in the Northeast would be a necessity which would not be served by either of the other two East Coast sites under consideration.

There are almost 8,000 Vermonters who will be negatively impacted by the basing, and the small amount of jobs that might be created are not an acceptable tradeoff for the projected damage to the health and property value of residents, as well as the degradation of the environment and quality of life.

Vermont's care and stewardship of it environment and its people drive one of Vermont's most important economic components - it's tourist industry. The F35 basing would not negatively affect just the Chittenden County communities that would be threatened but the economic engine of the entire state. Yet nowhere is any monetary compensation mentioned for the potential loss of value to property values or impact on tourism. GO-3

In addition, there are many historic residential buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places within the projected impacted noise zone, and these protected buildings will suffer damage to their infrastructure as well as become designated as "unsuitable for residential use". CR-1

Although the impact of the proposed F35 basing is a substantial threat to the human beings that live in the project noise contour areas, there are also two organisms that are either protected or threatened that make the Champlain Valley their home which may also be negatively impacted.

The RDEIS states that, "No federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species have been documented on the Burlington AGS (USFWS 2008). However, the bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), which is federally protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis), a federally and state listed endangered species, both have the potential to occur on the installation (U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] 2010)." BR-2

In fact, the heightened potential risk for raptor collision with the F35s may be more significant than has been perceived. The American Bald Eagle's nesting populations have been steadily increasing in Vermont due to reintroduction programs, and there are multiple breeding populations of American Bald Eagle in close proximity to the AGS in Burlington. The info below is from the Audubon Society of Vermont: BR-5

"Bald Eagle numbers have increased substantially during the past 2 decades, and Vermont is now host to 13 territorial pairs. Increases in Bald Eagle populations have resulted from a combination of factors; these include the banning of DDT in North America, an effective reintroduction program and the protection of Bald Eagle breeding and wintering habitat through the Endangered Species Act.

Bald Eagles were located on 9 of the 14 SSRs surveyed including three routes along Lake Champlain, two along the Connecticut River, and routes on the White, Lamoille, and Battenkill Rivers, and on Lake Bomoseen. The area between the Champlain Bridge and Shelburne Point on Lake Champlain supported the largest concentration of Bald Eagles (8 adults, 4 immatures) in the state."

However, the USAF's attention must also needs to be drawn to a threatened inhabitant of Lake Champlain which was not mentioned in the DEIS or RDEIS. BR-6

I am attaching information regarding the Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle, which is listed as a threatened animal in the state of Vermont and Canada. The following is an excerpt from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Dept. Agency of Natural Resources document entitled, "Vermont Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle Recovery Plan":

"Direct loss and degradation of nesting, basking, and wintering habitat, nest predation on eggs and young, possible boat strike and fishing mortality, and human disturbance threaten the long-term viability of Lake Champlain's softshell population. Listed as state-threatened in 1987, historic decline, small population size, and continued threats to survival of spiny softshell turtles were cited as reasons supporting listing. Spiny softshell turtles were nationally listed as threatened in Canada in 1991 and officially listed as threatened in Québec in 1999. The management of the Lake Champlain spiny soft-shell turtle population is a shared responsibility of Québec and Vermont because the population uses both United States

and Canadian waters, wetlands, and shoreline habitats and is affected by human activities in both countries. Softshell turtle conservation efforts have benefited from the involvement of many organizations and international cooperation. Partners from both Québec and Vermont have worked together on monitoring and management projects and share information about spiny softshell turtles in Lake Champlain. (pg 4)"

The Spiny Softshell Turtle population could suffer stress from the substantial noise impact of the F35s, which could make their fragile populations more vulnerable to disease and degradation.

"..the Burlington-Colchester area has a relatively dense human population and human disturbance poses a serious challenge to turtle restoration." (Section 4.1 pg 44)

In addition, the emergency procedures currently in place for the F16s, and which would also apply to the F35s, call for dumping excess aviation fuel into the nearest body of water (Lake Champlain) which could expose these susceptible creatures to toxic pollutants. SB1-7

"Existing populations are vulnerable to catastrophic occurrences due to the act of nesting and hibernating "en masse". Disease outbreaks and other stochastic events, as well as pollution including a chemical spill, could potentially wipe out a population and the probability of recolonization is correlated to the number of populations that persist. With so few populations, meta-population rescue potential is reduced; "(Section 3 pg 35.)

I ask the USAF to place much greater emphasis and consideration of the negative impact to human lives, threatened and protected species, and the Vermont environment, including its pristine air quality that would suffer substantially from the proposed F35 basing. AQ-1

Please also consider Vermonters' dedicated stewardship of its environment and care of its people. The people here don't just give lip service to these priorities; they live their lives accordingly in sustainable and renewable ways.

Vermonters understand they are defending their homes against attack by an invading force that appears impervious and uncaring about the impact on their communities. The only thing that appears to matter to the USAF and the AGS is the long-time occupation of this region with these planes.

With this perception, it is unfortunate but understandable that substantial and deeply negative feelings towards the USAF and the local AGS have been created over this battle of people v s plans. Many Vermonters respect both organizations and do not want to organize against them, but in the end their health, homes and their communities' quality of life will be considered more important to them than the continued basing of war machines in their midst. Vermonters will fight long and determinedly to defend their homes against this proposed assault and will not easily surrender this battle.

Please do not impose this divisive hardship on our communities when other, more appropriate locations are available. Do not doom our homes to become "unsuitable for residential use". Instead, we urge you to decide that it is the F35s that are not suitable for residential use.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to withdraw Vermont from consideration of the proposed F35s basing.

Sincerely,

Eileen Andreoli

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Jessica Louisos
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 8:21 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: South Burlington Vermont is not the best choice for F-35 basing

GO-1

Mr. Nicholas Germanos

Project Manager, F-35A Operational Basing HQ ACC/A7PS

129 Andrews Street, Suite 332

Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

July 15, 2013

Hello Mr. Germanos,

Please do not base the F-35 planes in South Burlington, Vermont.

I have read the Environmental Impact Statement and it clearly shows that the Vermont location has significantly larger impacts than other basing options. The new draft shows large increases in the number of homes impacted by the noise. The DNL levels will not only directly impact members of our community's health, but also the long term viability of our community.

I am the chair of the South Burlington Planning Commission and in that role have become aware of the most pressing issues of our city. As a Planning Commission we have previously submitted comments (see June 19, 2013 submitted letter) describing the Commission's position against the basing of the F-35. The impacts described in that letter have only increased in the newer draft of the EIS because there are a larger number of homes impacted. I speak only for myself in this letter, but do continue to personally agree with the Commission's position against the basing, because of the impact to my community. The lack of affordable housing is a major issue for our community. The basing of the F-35s will further decrease the availability of suitable affordable housing stock.

I own a home within the area outlined by the 65 DBL contour. My home will be impacted by noise, decreased property values, and increased risk associated with the new weapons system. How will homeowners within the impacted area be compensated? According to the EIS, there are many thousands of others in the same negative situation that my family will be in if the F-35s are based in my city. I believe that number should be higher than accounted for in the EIS. The baseline noise contours should use the 2006 FAA study that our community was presented as part of the Airport Buyout Program and has used in our planning efforts.

SO-2
SO-1
NO-23

I have strong support for the outstanding work of the Vermont Air National Guard and the military as a whole. I appreciate all that they do for our community. I have not heard how

the impacts to the community will be addressed, and until that time, cannot support the proposed F-35A bedding at the Burlington International Airport.

Thank you,

Jessica C. Louisos, M.S., P.E.

Chair, South Burlington Planning Commission

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Kate Nugent
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 8:26 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Comment regarding the basing of F-35s in South Burlington

Dear Mr. Germanos,

Thank you for your hard work maintaining our nation's defenses. I appreciate the safety and peace we enjoy every day, in large part because of people like you who put yourself in potential harm's way to ensure our nation's security. The national guard in Vermont has a proud reputation and is an important part of our community.

I believe that the proximity to some of the best schools in the state--another matter of pride for our community--and residential areas, and the density of the population overall makes Burlington a poor fit for the basing of the F-35s.

The facts seem to speak for themselves.

I hope you will be able to make what I see as the only obvious and right decision, to base the F35s elsewhere; if they ever reach final approval, if we ever find that our national budget warrants their creation as a priority over other struggling budget items, and if they ever become safe to fly.

It is unfortunate that the Air Force is being treated as if its own expertise is not enough to make this decision, and that considerations of personal profit are blinding many to the simple truths around this question.

It does not make sense to base the plane here; it would strike through the heart of communities and eventually leave them shells of their former selves. I think of my two-year-old son and his hopes and dreams, including his sensory health that allows him to understand the world around him, to pick up on social cues, to appreciate music which can be a source of joy and inspiration; and I want that sense to remain in tact for the remainder of his life. He doesn't have a choice of where to live; and if our house's property value is diminished (because of actual and perceived increases in noise levels), we as a family may not have much of a choice, either.

Thank you again so much for your hard work for this nation. We are all grateful to you and the Guard.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Nugent

GS-1

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Nancy Colby
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 8:26 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F35 Vermont

Dear Mr. Germanos:
I am a Vermonter and am support the F35 coming to our state. I for many years have enjoyed watching the F16s flying in our air space and look forward to welcoming the F35. I feel safe knowing that these planes are here to help protect us!

Sincerely,
Nancy S. Colby

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: betty
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 8:46 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F35 Basing in Burlington, VT

I would like to express my support for basing the F35 planes in Burlington, VT. Along with my wife I have lived in the Colchester/Winooski area for 30+ years, direct in the flight path of both commercial and military planes. I was here when they were flying F4's which were definitely louder than the current F16. I have heard of no children losing their hearing or becoming ill when the F4's were here. Housing prices did not go down. A lot of hysteria has been created by uninformed people who appear to be anti military and working on an agenda that most of the Chittenden county does not agree with

I am proud of our Green Mountain Boys and look forward to hearing the F35's fly over my home.

Thank you,

Gary Hier

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Doherty, John
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 8:47 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F35

Dear Mr Germanos,

I am sure you have received numerous comments from people who don't want the F35 to be based in Burlington Vermont.
Please put name in the positive column, I would like to have my voice be counted as a supporter of whatever replacement for the F16 is. We live in the direct path of BTV and have jets flying over our house constantly. Porters point in Colchester marks the westernmost land mass of greater Burlington and the pilots line up their approach to the airport over us.

The noise is minimal with the F16s and if the F35 are even twice as loud, I don't see a problem with them in my neighborhood.
As for the citizens of South Burlington and Winooski, I don't know what their problem really is. The noise issue is most likely a smoke screen. Some people just don't think we need to be superior to our enemies. Well, I do and so do the majority of my neighbors in Colchester.

I don't always agree with my Senators and Congressman but I think they are all on the right side of this issue.

Bring the F35 to Burlington. Do an Airshow! Prove it is awesome and people will come out to support it.

John T. Doherty RDMS, RVT

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Jen Smith
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 8:52 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: A request to reconsider the placement of the F-35s

Dear Mr. Germanos,

While I respect the need of the airforce to find an appropriate place for the new F-35s, I think that South Burlington is the wrong choice. A basic principle of Environmental Justice is that the negative impact of development should not fall disproportionately on any given group- Winooski, where I live, is the most diverse community in the state, and among the poorest of the Burlington metro area and would be very much affected by the placement of the new jets.

It simply makes no sense to house the jets in the most densely populated area in the State. I don't want them near my home, or the homes of my neighbors. I stand with my city council which unanimously voted against the placement of the F-35s in South Burlington.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jennifer Smith
Winooski, Vermont

--
The Nomadic Oven

GS-1

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Richard Colby
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 8:55 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F35 comments

I support basing the F35s in Burlington, Vermont.

Thank you,
Richard O. Colby

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Alex P.
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:01 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35 Public Commenting

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I am writing to voice my opinion about the decision to base the F-35s in the Burlington/ South Burlington Airport.

What bothers me most about the F-35s at this point is that they have not been tested here, in South Burlington, Vermont. I have never heard an F-35 take off or land in the South Burlington Airport. To my knowledge, no one ever has because it has not happened. N0-22

I have been told by public relations officials in the Air Force that I could fly out of state to hear them for myself, but what good would it do me? It would not demonstrate the effect on the South Burlington community. The Environmental Impact Statement is a good start to understanding how the noise from the F-35s will affect South Burlington, but it fails to deliver firsthand experience. How can we truly know how the F-35s will affect the South Burlington community until we test them here -- not in Florida, not in Utah, not in Idaho, but right here?

The counterargument I have been told, about the aircraft making a test flight, is that they are currently in a prototype stage and cannot be tested since it would be too expensive. If the jets are not finished and are also not available for testing in their expected basing areas, why make the decision and the commitment now?

Both sides cannot agree on the facts; they tell a very different story. Based on the information currently available, we're stuck at this controversial point, and we will not move forward unless the decision is forced or the aircraft properly and completely tested in their expected locations. Maybe the F-35s will be no louder than the F-16s as the airforce described. Maybe not. I don't know who to believe; both sides cannot agree on what the "facts" are.

We won't have a chance to sample the impact of the F-35 aircraft before the decision has been made. This, above all, bothers me. The South Burlington Community deserves to know firsthand what they will be committing to.

I oppose the F-35s until we agree on the facts, clear up the misinformation, and see the F-35s tested here, in South Burlington Vermont.

Sincerely,

Alex Proulx

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Alex Martin
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:04 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35

As a resident of Winooski, I implore you to reconsider your standing decision to base F-35s in Vermont. I rent a house in this fair Community of Vermont, and life is already diminished by the ANG's current maneuvers. I don't care if these new jets are louder or operate at the same decibel level - I no longer wish to hear them above my head, in my head. Of course, I could move and probably will. Given the current aural backdrop your jets provide over our city, I cannot in good conscious buy a house here for the mental and psychological well-being of my family. I recently read how our Community satisfies four out of your five criteria for best imbed locations. In my opinion, you've overlooked the most critical, that fifth and ever so vital criteria - the people of Winooski, Vermont. Our Community. I trust you will make the right decision. Alex Martin - Resident of Winooski and lifelong Vermonter

GO-1

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Dan
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:07 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: No F-35 in Vermont

Too expensive to pull the plug on - throwing bad money after bad.
Keep the war machine out of Vermont!
Dan Treinis

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Jessica Lindholm
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:10 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F35s

Good evening,

My husband and I are residents of Winooski, VT who are in support of the F35.

Jets of any kind are just kind of awesome.

Thanks,
Jessica and Ryan Hier

Sent from my iPhone

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: barbara george
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:17 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Bring ON The F35

I want to see the F 35 here in Burlington, it will be an asset to the community, students, and Economy of our fair City Burlington VT.

Bring it ON Bring it ON
Bring it ON
Bring it ON
Bring it ON
Bring it ON
Bring it ON
Bring it ON

GO-1

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: David Elston
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:25 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Cc: David Elston
Subject: Comment on F-35 Basing Environmental Impact Statement for Burlington Vermont

July 15 2013

To Mr. Nicholas Germanos

Re: Comment on F-35 Basing Environmental Impact Statement for Burlington VT.

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I'm writing to express my opposition to the basing of the F-35 at the Vermont Air National Guard base at the Burlington International Airport in Vermont. I agree with the information provided in the EIS, Rev. EIS and Executive Summary that there are too many "unavoidable adverse environmental impacts" to surrounding communities like Winooski, where I have lived for the past 24 years.

It is clear from those studies the Air Force has provided that the environmental impacts are far greater in Burlington than at other air bases considered and outweigh the economic benefits for placing the F-35 in Burlington.

For over two decades I have heard the F-16s along with F-15s, F-18s and A-10s and I still get a little excited when I see the other visiting jets. I don't always like the noise they produce, but I can accept it most of the time at the present levels. I do not accept the prospect of an increase in jet noise (approximately four times louder) that the F-35 would bring. I also do not accept the assurances offered that the F-35 noise can be "mitigated." Because of a change in "mission" the VTANG F-16s have in fact become louder over the past years, due to the necessary use of afterburners.

Lastly, to paraphrase a neighbor's statement to our city council, that if we want to honor our local Air National Guard for their good work, it should not be done at the price of justice, and the "disproportional environmental injustice" the F-35 would impose on our community. The Executive Summary and R-EIS make this very clear.

Thank you for your consideration and the documents you have provided on this issue.

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

GO-1

From: Rachel Foxx
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:26 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35 to VT.

Hello Mr. Germanos,

I am writing to you today to express some of my views about the F-35 in general, and specifically the basing in the Burlington Vermont area.

As you know there would be 7700 people effected by these planes being based in Vermont's most densely populated area. All of the research has shown that the sound from the planes has long-term damaging effects on those in the area of the flight path. These effects include problems with reading, hearing, memory-retention, academic performance and cognitive impairment. This would include over 660 acres of residential area, 3300 households, 3 schools, 7700 people. This is not an issue of opinion about whether the noise is bothersome, or whether your day is interrupted by the noise. This is based on over 20 scientific studies that have found these effects on our physiology, whether the noise bothers us or not. Since the other sites that are under consideration are not so densely populated, I don't believe Vermont should be considered for the basing of these planes. Don't force all these people to live in an area that will be condemned "unsuitable for residential life," and condemned with physiologic problems when our health care system and our education system is already over-burdened with too many unhealthy situations.

I have heard folks speak about the economic benefits of this plane being based in Vermont. When I researched what the benefits would be to the area, I actually found that there is no benefit. There will be fewer planes than are based here now. The planes will not be serviced in this area, and Vermonters who currently service the planes we have will actually lose jobs or have to leave Vermont. This plane is also becoming more and more expensive by the day, and it is not living up to the promises that Lockheed Martin gave about the specifications and abilities of the plane. If this was a car that my family was planning on buying, I would have to seriously reconsider after finding out the car would cost more, and do less. At a time that the United States economy is still trying to recover, is it really a responsible purchase for the Air Force to be making? Most of the other countries that had ordered this plane have cancelled their orders, why is the United States staying the course, what is the benefit to us to own a plane that we as a country can't afford, and doesn't do what we were promised it would do?

SO-10

My understanding of the other sites that are being considered is that they are not residential areas, and the planes would be economically beneficial to those areas. It seems like a no-brain-er decision to me to place the planes in those areas, and not in Vermont. The other sites are interested and would like the planes placed there. We are not and have been very forthcoming with that perspective.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I appreciate your consideration in making your decision.
Rachel Foxx
--

Rachel Foxx, RN, IBCLC

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Chris Seanard
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:38 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: I oppose the F-35 in Vermont.

I oppose the f-35 being placed/stationed/flown for training and other opperations in Burlington and surrounding areas.

Chris Seanard

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Tatiana Repnikova [trepnikova@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:40 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: I Oppose F-35 basing in Vermont

Dear Mr.Germanos,

I am strongly Oppose F35 being based in Burlington.
thank you.

T.Repnikova

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Paul MacGowan
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:41 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: I oppose the F-35's in Burlington VT

Dear Mr. Nicholas Germanos,

I am writing you to let you know that I oppose the basing of F-35's in Burlington Vermont. I am not opposed to the military and it's needs but feel that it is the wrong place to host these fighter jets.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Paul MacGowan

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Tati French
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:44 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Do Not base F35 in Burlington Vermont

the immigrants are against F35 in Vermont!

Tati French

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Pau
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:44 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: I oppose basing the F-35 fighter in Burlington

Dear Mr. Nicholas Germanos,

I am writing you to let you know that I oppose the basing of F-35's in Burlington Vermont. Burlington is the wring place for these fighter jets.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Paul MacGowan

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Joyce Cellars
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:47 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: No F-35 in Burlington, Vermont

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I am writing to express my opposition to basing the F-35 in Burlington, Vermont. My husband, Anthony Grudin, and I believe that its potential environmental impacts are great and disproportionately affect quality of life for our working-class and immigrant neighbors, as well as schoolchildren and teachers.

Sincerely,

Joyce Cellars

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: James Marc Leas
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:48 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Cc: Dumont Jim
Subject: comment to draft EIS: "The Basing of the F-35 will put Air Force in violation of Government Noise Standards."
Attachments: letter to Air Force July 15 2013 F-35 basing would put Air Force in violation of noise standard.pdf; NIOSH chart.pdf

Nick Germanos,

Attached is another comment to the revised draft EIS: "The Basing of the F-35 will put Air Force in violation of Government Noise Standards."
Also attached is the chart from the paper, "Occupational Noise Exposure Revised Criteria 1998" published by the US Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)in June 1998 mentioned in the letter. Thanks very much for including this and considering it.
best regards,
James Marc Leas
--

james.marc.leas http://vermontpatentlawyer.com/ May be restricted or confidential. If you are not intended recipient please delete immediately

James Marc Leas
Attorney at Law
Registered Patent Lawyer

July 15, 2013

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ ACC/A7PS
129 Andrews St., Suite 337
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

Ms. Kathleen Ferguson
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations – SAF-IEI
1665 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1665

RE: **The Basing of the F-35 will put Air Force in violation of Government Noise Standards**

Dear Mr. Germans and Ms. Ferguson:

The attached chart is from the paper, "Occupational Noise Exposure Revised Criteria 1998" published by the US Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)in June 1998.

The chart gives the "combinations of noise exposure levels and durations that no worker exposure shall equal or exceed:"

The revised draft EIS states that the noise exposure level for a person on the ground below when the F-16 takes off and reaches 1000 feet is 94dB and for the F-35 under the same conditions 115 dB.

The attached chart gives the allowed duration for a worker at each of these noise exposure levels:

Jet plane	Noise exposure 1000 feet on Takeoff	Duration for worker
F-16	94 dB	1 hour
F-35	115 dB	28 seconds

Expected duration of sound at about this level for each F-35 jet plane as it takes off is about 30 seconds

For 12 jets this means the total duration is 30 seconds x 12 = 6 minutes

As the chart gives the maximum duration at 115 dB as 28 seconds, the 6 minutes for the 12 F-35 jets to take off puts the Air Force in violation of the standard by 5 minutes and 32 seconds.

Even if the duration for each F-35 jet was much shorter, 3 to 5 seconds, as indicated by Brig. Gen Dick Harris of the Vermont Air National Guard at a news conference on July 11, 2013: for 12 jets that would add up to 36 to 60 seconds which is still 8 to 32 seconds too long.

The above standard is for a worker. That does not cover children who have significantly higher sensitivity. But if too long for a worker, then way too long for a child.

The Air Force would put itself seriously in violation of the CDC and NIOSH standard if it bases the F-35 at Burlington Airport.

NO-24

Thank you very much for considering this. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

/James Marc Leas/

James Marc Leas

CRITERIA FOR A RECOMMENDED STANDARD

Occupational Noise Exposure

Revised Criteria 1998

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Cincinnati, Ohio

June 1998

$$D = [C_1/T_1 + C_2/T_2 + ... + C_n/T_n] \times 100$$

where

C_n = total time of exposure at a specified noise level, and
T_n = exposure duration for which noise at this level becomes hazardous.

The daily dose can be converted into an 8-hr TWA according to the following formula (or as shown in Table 1–2):

$$TWA = 10.0 \times Log(D/100) + 85$$

Table 1–1. Combinations of noise exposure levels and durations that no worker exposure shall equal or exceed

Exposure level, *L* (dBA)	Duration, *T*			Exposure level, *L* (dBA)	Duration, *T*		
	Hours	Minutes	Seconds		Hours	Minutes	Seconds
80	25	24	—	106	—	3	45
81	20	10	—	107	—	2	59
82	16	—	—	108	—	2	22
83	12	42	—	109	—	1	53
84	10	5	—	110	—	1	29
85	8	—	—	111	—	1	11
86	6	21	—	112	—	—	56
87	5	2	—	113	—	—	45
88	4	—	—	114	—	—	35
89	3	10	—	115	—	—	28
90	2	31	—	116	—	—	22
91	2	—	—	117	—	—	18
92	1	35	—	118	—	—	14
93	1	16	—	119	—	—	11
94	1	—	—	120	—	—	9
95	—	47	37	121	—	—	7
96	—	37	48	122	—	—	6
97	—	30	—	123	—	—	4
98	—	23	49	124	—	—	3
99	—	18	59	125	—	—	3
100	—	15	—	126	—	—	2
101	—	11	54	127	—	—	1
102	—	9	27	128	—	—	1
103	—	7	30	129	—	—	1
104	—	5	57	130–140	—	—	<1
105	—	4	43	—	—	—	—

Frank B. Haddleton
Attorney at Law

Admitted in Vermont and Massachusetts

July 12, 2013

By U.S. Mail and by email

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ ACC/A7PS
129 Andrews Street, Suite 337
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

Governor Peter Shumlin
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, VT 05609

Ms. Kathleen Ferguson
Deputy Asst Secretary of the Air Force
For Installations SAF-IEI
1665 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1665

Mayor Miro Weinberger
149 Church Street
Burlington, VT 05401

Re: No F-35's in Burlington, Vermont

Dear Mr. Germanos, Ms. Ferguson, Governor Shumlin, and Mayor Weinberger:

Anybody who still believes that the basing of the F-35A at the Burlington airport is justifiable or reasonable has not reviewed the current medical literature about the clear connection between noise pollution and very serious, chronic health conditions, including cardiovascular disease. The impact on children is even greater, affecting their cognitive development and scholastic performance at a very critical point in their lives. I enclose, for your review, a short introduction to some of this material.
http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2013/06/05/air-noise-pollution.aspx

Any individual involved in the F-35A deployment decision-making process has an obligation to review the current medical literature and understand that these jets absolutely cannot be based in an area where there are significant numbers of residences or schools. The mandate of our government in general, and of the Air Force in particular, is to promote the health and safety of U.S. citizens. Basing the F-35A in Burlington will have a dramatic, negative impact on the health and safety of Burlington area residents. NO-8

The local opposition to the basing of the F-35A is enormous. The noise from the F-16s is already unacceptable. Unfortunately, most people have concluded, based upon the comments of Governor Shumlin and others, that their opinions don't matter. GP-4

Yours sincerely,

Frank B. Haddleton
fbh:ms / enclosure

Mercola.com
Take Control of Your Health

Call Toll Free: **877-985-2695**

Both Air And Noise Pollution Increase Cardiovascular Risk

June 05, 2013 18,660 views

By Dr. Mercola

Air pollution and noise pollution often go hand-in-hand, as some of the most heavily air-polluted areas are also those near loud busy roadways and airports.

Because of this connection, some have tried to dismiss studies linking air pollution to increased heart risks, blaming it on the noise in the area instead – and vice versa.

Now new research has settled this point of contention, as it looked at air pollution and noise pollution simultaneously… and found that each form of pollution was *independently* associated with heart risks, specifically subclinical atherosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries.

Air Pollution and Noise Pollution: A Double Whammy to Your Heart

If you live near a busy highway, you're likely being simultaneously exposed to two major pollution sources that can harm your heart: air pollution *and* noise pollution from the traffic.

In a German study of more than 4,200 people, researchers used a measure of arterial hardening known as "thoracic aortic calcification" (TAC) to estimate heart risks. Exposure to fine particle air pollution increased TAC scores by nearly 20 percent while exposure to noise pollution increased TAC by about 8 percent.[1]

This was *after* controlling for other variables that may influence heart health, such as age, gender, smoking, physical activity, alcohol use and more. What this means is that people living in high-risk areas need to account for both types of pollution to protect their heart health. As researchers noted:[2]

> *"… both exposures seem to be important and both must be considered on a population level, rather than focusing on just one hazard."*

Air Pollution Is Strongly Tied to Heart Risks

You may think air pollution mostly impacts your lungs, but it actually has a serious impact on your heart, as well. In fact, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that 5 percent or more of heart disease deaths may be related to air pollution exposure.[3]

For starters, it's known that exposure to one type of air pollution, ozone, may trigger inflammation of your vascular system, increasing risk factors associated with heart disease.

Ozone exposure has also been linked to a change in heart rate variability and a reduction in the ability of blood clots to dissolve, both of which can lead to heart problems.[4]

Additional research published in the journal *PLoS Medicine*[5], showed that, on average, the thickness of the carotid artery increased by 0.014 millimeters per year after other risk factors such as smoking were accounted for.

Those who had higher levels of exposure to fine particulate air pollution experienced thickening of the inner two layers of the carotid artery (which supplies blood to your head) quicker than those exposed to lower levels of pollution. According to the authors:

Story at-a-glance

If you live near a busy highway, you're likely being simultaneously exposed to two major pollution sources that can harm your heart: air pollution and noise pollution from the traffic

Exposure to fine particle air pollution increased TAC scores (a measure of arterial hardening) by nearly 20 percent while exposure to noise pollution increased TAC by about 8 percent, according to new research

Both fine particle matter air pollution and noise pollution are believed to increase your cardiovascular disease risk through similar biologic pathways, including by causing an imbalance in your autonomic nervous system (ANS)

Most Popular

1 10 American Foods That Are Banned in Other Countries

2 Norway Issues Warnings About Health Dangers of Farmed Salmon

3 The Spice That Can Potentially Help Your Health in 150 Different Ways

4 "Food Babe" – A Woman on a Mission to Change the Food Industry, and How You Can Too

5 Why Branding Obesity as a Disease Is a Step in the WRONG Direction...

You Might Also Like

Top Three Sources of Toxic Exposures: Traffic, Personal Care and Plastic Products
217,599 Views

The Invisible Epidemic Causing Headaches, Fatigue and Depression
200,628 Views

Unexplained Headaches, Fatigue, Depression, and Brain Fog? Look No Further Than Your Own Home...
51,664 Views

"Linking these findings with other results from the same population suggests that persons living in a more polluted part of town may have a 2 percent higher risk of stroke as compared to people in a less polluted part of the same metropolitan area."

For people with existing heart conditions the risk may be even steeper, with one study showing that breathing exhaust fumes from heavy traffic may trigger a heart attack among this population – a risk that continues for up to six hours afterward as well.[6] Simply being in heavy traffic has even been found to triple the risk of suffering from a heart attack![7]

Interestingly, both fine particle matter air pollution and noise pollution are believed to increase your cardiovascular disease risk through similar biologic pathways, including by causing an imbalance in your autonomic nervous system (ANS). Your ANS is intricately involved in regulating biological functions such as blood pressure, blood sugar levels, clotting and viscosity.

How Does Noise Pollution Harm Your Heart?

According to research published in *Environmental Health Perspectives*, long-term exposure to traffic noise may account for approximately 3 percent of coronary heart disease deaths (or about 210,000 deaths) in Europe each year.[8] But how exactly does noise harm your heart?

One of the key ways is by elevating stress hormones such as cortisol, adrenaline, and noradrenaline, which, over time, can lead to high blood pressure, stroke and heart failure. One review of research showed that "arousal associated with nighttime noise exposure increased blood and saliva concentrations of these hormones even during sleep."[9] Deepak Prasher, a professor of audiology at University College in London and a member of the WHO Noise Environmental Burden on Disease working group, states:[10]

"Many people become habituated to noise over time… The biological effects are imperceptible, so that even as you become accustomed to the noise, adverse physiological changes are nevertheless taking place, with potentially serious consequences to human health… Taken together, recent epidemiologic data show us that noise is a major stressor that can influence health through the endocrine, immune, and cardiovascular systems."

The impact can be significant. Among women who judge themselves to be sensitive to noise, chronic noise exposure increased the risk of cardiovascular mortality by 80 percent![11] Chronic noise exposure also leads to health risks beyond your heart, such as hearing loss, diminished productivity, sleep disruption, impaired learning and more. Air pollution similarly causes wide-reaching risks to health…

Air Pollution Also Tied to Hyperactivity in Kids

In related news, a study found that children exposed to traffic-related air pollution before their first birthday had a higher risk of hyperactivity at the age of 7.[12] The research suggests that air pollution may be having a negative impact on brain development, possibly by causing blood vessels to constrict or causing toxic buildup in the brain.

Noise pollution has also been tied to risks specifically in children, including an impairment in reading comprehension and long-term memory among those exposed to chronic aircraft noise.[13] Like adults, children living near heavy traffic areas may be at significant risks of health issues from exposure to both noise *and* air pollution simultaneously.

Air Pollution: What Can You Do to Lower Your Risks?

If you happen to live in a heavily polluted area, the *best* option is to move, but I realize that isn't always a practical option. For most people, it's better to focus your attention on your immediate environment, which you have more, if not full, control over. The most effective way to improve your indoor air quality, for instance, is to control or eliminate as many sources of pollution as you can first, before using any type of air purifier.

This includes accounting for molds, tobacco smoke, volatile organic compounds from paints, aerosol sprays and household cleaners, pesticides, phthalates from vinyl flooring and personal care products, pollutants from pressure-treated wood products, radon gas and more (see tips below).

The next step to take is free—open some windows. Of course, this can only take you so far, but it's an important and simple step. Next, since it is impossible to eliminate ALL air contaminants, one of the best things you can do is incorporate a high-quality air purifier. My recommendations for air purifiers have changed over the years, along with the changing technologies and newly emerging research. There are so many varieties of contaminants generated by today's toxic world that air purification manufacturers are in a constant race to keep up with them, so it pays to do your homework.

At present, and after much careful review and study, I believe air purifiers using Photo Catalytic Oxidation (PCO) seem to be the best technology available. Aside from using an air purification system, there are a number of other steps you can take to take charge of your air quality and greatly reduce the amount of air pollutants generated in your home:

- Vacuum your floors regularly using a HEPA filter vacuum cleaner or, even better, a central vacuum cleaner that can be retrofitted to your existing house if you don't currently have one. Standard bag or bagless vacuum cleaners are another primary contributor to poor indoor air quality. A regular vacuum cleaner typically has about a 20-micron tolerance. Although that's tiny, far more microscopic particles flow *right through* the vacuum cleaner than it actually picks up! Beware of cheaper knock-offs that profess to have "HEPA-like" filters—get the real deal.
- Increase ventilation by opening a few windows every day for 5 to 10 minutes, preferably on opposite sides of the house. (Although outdoor air quality may be poor, stale indoor air is typically even worse by a wide margin.)
- Get some houseplants. Even NASA has found that plants markedly improve the air! For tips and guidelines, see my previous article The 10 Best Pollution-Busting Houseplants.
- Take your shoes off as soon as you enter the house, and leave them by the door to prevent tracking in of toxic particles.
- Discourage or even better, forbid, tobacco smoking in or around your home.
- Switch to non-toxic cleaning products (such as baking soda, hydrogen peroxide and vinegar) and safer personal care products. Avoid aerosols. Look for VOC-free cleaners. Avoid commercial air fresheners and scented candles, which can out gas literally thousands of different chemicals into your breathing space.
- Avoid powders. Talcum and other personal care powders can be problematic as they float and linger in the air after each use. Many powders are allergens due to their tiny size, and can cause respiratory problems
- Don't hang dry-cleaned clothing in your closet immediately. Hang them outside for a day or two. Better yet, see if there's an eco-friendly dry cleaner in your city that uses some of the newer dry cleaning technologies, such as liquid CO2.
- Upgrade your furnace filters. Today, there are more elaborate filters that trap more of the particulates. Have your furnace and air conditioning ductwork and chimney cleaned regularly.
- Avoid storing paints, adhesives, solvents, and other harsh chemicals in your house or in an attached garage.
- Avoid using nonstick cookware, which can release toxins into the air when heated.
- Ensure your combustion appliances are properly vented.
- Make sure your house has proper drainage and its foundation is sealed properly to avoid mold formation. For more information about the health dangers of mold and how to address it, please see this previous article.
- The same principles apply to ventilation inside your car—especially if your car is new—and chemicals from plastics, solvents, carpet and audio equipment add to the toxic mix in your car's cabin. That "new car smell" can contain up to 35 times the health limit for VOCs, "making its enjoyment akin to glue-sniffing."[14]

Tips for Eliminating Noise Pollution Using... Noise

We've covered air pollution, but what can you do about *noise* pollution in your home to protect your heart and overall health? If you live in a very noisy area, such as near a highway or airport, you may want to consider moving.

If that is not an option, consider adding acoustical tile to your ceiling and walls to buffer the noise. At the very least, you can sound-treat your home by adding heavy curtains to your windows, rugs to your floors and sealing air leaks. If noise is only an issue occasionally, sound-blocking headphones can eliminate such disturbances.

If noise is an issue during the night, you may want to consider adding *pink noise* to your bedroom. Pink noise is steady with a consistent frequency, like the sound of wind or constant rain. Research shows that steady pink noise can help slow down and regulate your brainwaves for more stable sleep and improved sleep quality.[15] While pink noise CDs are available, you can also simply turn on a fan in your bedroom to block out noise disturbances and instead take advantage of this beneficial type of pink noise.

[+] Sources and References

[+] Comments (30)

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Darlene Emmons
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:48 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

I believe very strongly that bringing the F-35's to our area is wrong. They are to loud and I know because the F-16 are to loud also, and these are louder. the constant flying of these jets will effect our hearing. This has been proven by the people who say they hardly hear them. You have my full support against these jets. dmailto:Darlene_emmons49@yahoo.com

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: rachel siegel
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:50 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35

I don't want the F35 in Vermont's most populated region.

Sincerely,
Rachel Siegel

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: kjackson
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:54 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Opposing the F35

Mr. Germanos,
As a teacher in Vermont, I'm particularly troubled by all of the credible research that shows just how damaging the noise of the F35 will be to the developing brains and well being of children living in the flight path. I am also shocked that our delegates in Congress, men I have trusted and admired for many years, are in support of the dangers to and the dislocations of so many Vermonters. I hope you will add my name to your list of Vermont residents who are vehemently opposed to the F-35.

Respectfully,

Kerry Jackson

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Tati French
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 9:55 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: NO F35 In Vermont

Dear Mr Germanos

I am against F35 in Vermont.

Best

Ms.Repa

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Lasko, Katherine
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 10:03 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Please no F35's

I don't want to raise my two kids in a city that sounds like a war zone. I don't think it's good for the environment. I don't think it's fair for the refugees of war or the veterans with PTSD. I don't want to see home values go down in Burlington's poorer neighborhoods. This project would benefit very few and take away from so many of us who live and work in this town.
Thank you for taking this into consideration.
Sincerely,
Kate Lasko

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Bethany Fleishman
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 10:04 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: No to F35 in Burlington

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I am writing to express my opposition to the F35 being based in Burlington, Vermont. It doesn't make sense from a public health perspective to have that much noise in a densely populated area. Please re-think the plan.

Thank you,
Bethany Fleishman

How about the noise effects on the animals in our City which include cats, dogs, small mammals, domestic birds, chickens, roosters, etc. My niece and sister in law live in one of the large senior housing units in Winooski and everytime the F-16s fly by her cat hides in the closet. I can't imagine what the F-35s will do to our animals. BR-4

According to the RDEIS, property values will decrease. One can look at the present home values in Valparaiso, FL and notice that their property values have decreased since the arrival of the F-35s. SO-1

We have spent a lot of time and money over the last 12 years to create numerous shrub and flower gardens at our house. I enjoy working in my gardens when I am home from my busy full-time job, as it's a great stress releaser for me. I also enjoy sitting outside whenever I can and relax by listening to the many varieties of birds and the other wildlife that comes into our yard, including hummingbirds, butterflies, butterfly moths, chipmunks and squirrels. Our yard was recently certified as a wildlife habitat and also as an advance bird habitat through the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). If the F-35s are based in Burlington, Vermont we will not be able to enjoy sitting outside or working in the gardens at our house because of the tremendous amount of increased noise from the F-35s. I am sure that most of the birds, butterflies and hummingbirds will not be frequenting my house either because of the noise from the F-35s, which according to the RDEIS will be four times louder than the F-16s. My stress releaser is to sit outside and enjoy my beautiful environment, but if the F-35s are here, the noise will increase my stress level and my quality of life will be tremendously decreased.

The increase in noise levels from the F-35s will bring environmental harm to our communities. According to studies from WHO, for noise levels great than 60 dB(A), the myocardial infarction risk increases. WHO also cites that other adverse health effects from exposure to environmental noise include blood pressure, hypertension and ischaemic heart disease. According to the Air Force, Burlington, Vermont is **NOT** the environmentally preferred base. NO-13

The citizens of Winooski take pride in their environment by having meticulous landscaped yards and gorgeous decorated houses for the various holidays (Halloween, Christmas, Easter, Fall). Since the majority of our wonderful City is in the "noise impact area" our quality of life, health, property values, and the place we call home will change forever.

It is extremely upsetting to think that the "noise area," which includes the majority of our City will be designated by the federal government as "not considered suitable for residential use." For most of us, our home is our only investment. If these planes were located in your town, would you want to see the value of your home decrease? We need our home equity! No one, including us, would ever purchase a home in an area that was designated as "not considered suitable for residential use." Would you?

In addition, Winooski has spent millions of dollars in a new renaissance downtown area that will be affected as well. Who will want to purchase our homes or the condos, apartments, and stores in the new downtown area with the increase in noise from the F-35s and a decrease in property values? It is extremely devastating to all of us in Winooski to have our property values drastically reduced.

There have been substantive errors made in the scoring process as well as substantive errors were made in the DEIS. We are asking the Air Force to do the right thing and base the F-35s in another state—NOT VERMONT, as they do not belong in a densely populated area. Our opinions in **opposition** are echoed with all our neighbors and community. PA-1

We are aware that there are other states that would like to have the F-35s. Please hear and honor our request to locate them in another state. Vermont is a small state, and our communities will be negatively affected forever if these planes are based here. **Please do the right thing and base the F-35s in another state.**

Thank you for **NOT** basing the F-35s in Vermont!

Sincerely,

Anne and Fred Ringer

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

GO-1

From: James Marc Leas
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 8:13 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Cc: Dumont Jim
Subject: comment to revised draft EIS: The Basing of the F-35 in Burlington is Contrary to the US and Vermont Constitutions and to the Vermont National Guard Mission Statement
Attachments: letter to Air Force July 15 2013 F-35 basing contrary to constitutions & mission statement.pdf; Mission Vermont Air Guard AFD-090918-045.pdf

Nick Germanos,

Attached is another comment to the revised draft EIS: "The Basing of the F-35 in Burlington is Contrary to the US and Vermont Constitutions and to the Vermont National Guard Mission Statement." Also attached is the mission statement of the Air Guard quoted in the letter. Thanks very much for including this and considering it.
best regards,
James Marc Leas

--

James Marc Leas
Attorney at Law
Registered Patent Lawyer

July 15, 2013

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ ACC/A7PS
129 Andrews St., Suite 337
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

Ms. Kathleen Ferguson
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations – SAF-IEI
1665 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1665

RE: **The Basing of the F-35 in Burlington is Contrary to the US and Vermont Constitutions and to the Vermont National Guard Mission Statement**

Dear Mr. Germans and Ms. Ferguson:

The US constitution:

Article II section 2: the president is "commander in chief of . . . the militia of the several states when called into the actual Service of the United States."

Article I section 8: Congress is "To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress."

5th amendment provides: No person shall be . . . deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

14th amendment provides: . . . nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

The Vermont Constitution provides:

§ 59. Militia The inhabitants of this State shall be trained and armed for its defense, under such regulations, restrictions, and exceptions, as Congress, agreeably to the Constitution of the United States, and the Legislature of this State, shall direct.

Article 1: All persons born free; their natural rights; slavery prohibited: That all persons are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent, and unalienable rights, amongst which are the enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property . . .

Article 2: Private property subject to public use; owner to be paid: That private property ought to be subservient to public uses when necessity requires it, nevertheless, whenever any person's property is taken for the use of the public, the owner ought to receive an equivalent in money.

Under the federal constitution, because the states have the power to appoint officers and have authority of training and because the president is commander in chief of the militia only when the militia is called into active service of the United States, the state otherwise has 100% effective day to day control of the state militia (now called the National Guard).

The US constitution assigns separate powers to different branches of the federal government and divides power further by assigning powers to the states. This division of powers has a purpose: to prevent tyranny.

The separation of powers is fundamental to the US constitution. The US constitution does not provide the states the power to waive the power assigned to the states to control the state militia through their appointment and training powers and reassign that control to the federal government. Allowing that would destroy the plan of the US constitution.

The Vermont constitution separately provides for the state militia to be trained and armed "for the defense of Vermont," as agreeable to the US constitution, and as directed by the legislature. If there were no state purpose then the Air Guard would be in violation of the state constitution that requires that it be trained and armed for the defense of Vermont, not merely used for federal purposes that have nothing to do with specifically defending Vermont.

In line with the US and Vermont Constitutions, the mission statement of the Guard (attached in the Memorandum of Understanding) provides:

a. "To maintain the highest caliber of trained personnel and equipment to accomplish the USAF mission of 'Fly, Fight, and Win.' Provide to the State of Vermont trained and equipped personnel to protect life and property, preserve the peace, order and public safety. Add value to our communities by involvement in local and state programs."

In addition, as also provided in the attached Memorandum of Understanding, the Guard is dedicated to "pollution prevention" and "continual improvement of its environmental management practices and programs," and to "assure compliance with applicable Federal, State, local and Air Force-specific environmental regulations and policies."

Doing something that renders 3400 Vermont homes within a noise contour that the Air Force revised draft EIS and FAA regulations say is unsuitable for residential use is not keeping those homes in compliance.

Damage to lives and property is not theoretical. South Burlington is now looking at what was a thriving community of 120 affordable homes near the airport, now demolished because of F-16 noise. An FAA report regarding the Burlington Airport said that acquiring the property and relocating the families was the only possible mitigation for the F-16 noise. This is consistent with the 2011 World Health Organization report that said noise at that level causes adverse health effects, including cognitive impairment for 50 percent of children. The Air Force report says that the F-35 is more than four times louder than the F-16.

Bringing the F-35 is a taking and a deprivation of property. No due process is in place for the public and for homeowners. No one is stepping forward responsible for providing an equivalent in money and just compensation.

Having constitutional responsibility toward Vermont, and having dedicated themselves to protecting life and property in Vermont and add value to Vermont communities, and having dedicated themselves to pollution prevention and environmental management in Vermont, the Vermont Air National Guard should be prohibited from seeking or accepting any mission, such as basing the F-35, that has no particular Vermont mission beyond picking up fire engine costs and providing jobs. That contributes nothing to the above identified US and Vermont constitutional missions and the responsibilities acknowledged in the mission statement. And that detracts from those responsibilities.

Thank you very much for considering this. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

/James Marc Leas/

James Marc Leas

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
158TH FIGHTER WING (ACC)
SOUTH BURLINGTON VERMONT

Not applicable

13 April 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL WING PERSONNEL

FROM: 158 FW/CC

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this MOU is to outline the responsibilities and expectations regarding the 158th Fighter Wing Environmental Management System.

2. AUTHORITY. Air Force Instruction 32-7001, *Environmental Management,* 4 November 2011, section 2.23.2.1

3. GENERAL.

a. SCOPE. The 158th Fighter Wing of the Vermont Air National Guard is committed to the protection of human health and the environment as it accomplishes its stated mission:

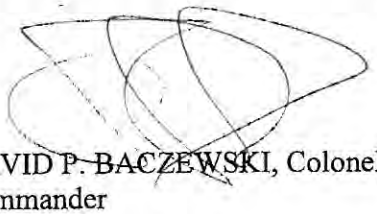
b. "To maintain the highest caliber of trained personnel and equipment to accomplish the USAF mission of 'Fly, Fight, and Win.' Provide to the State of Vermont trained and equipped personnel to protect life and property, preserve the peace, order and public safety. Add value to our communities by involvement in local and state programs."

c. The 158th Fighter Wing is dedicated to the development, implementation and thorough documentation of an installation-wide Environmental Management System (EMS) designed to assure compliance with applicable Federal, State, local and Air Force-specific environmental regulations and policies.

d. The 158th Fighter Wing is committed to pollution prevention, and to continual improvement of its environmental management practices and programs. Significant environmental aspects of the unit's operations will be identified, objectives will be set forth for improving these aspects, and specific tasks (targets) are to be defined. Completion of these targets will be documented, and the effectiveness of the improvements will be checked and documented. The cyclical EMS process of "Plan, Do, Check, and Act" will result in continuous improvement to the 158th Fighter Wing's environmental programs.

e. This Environmental MOU will be communicated to all persons working for or on behalf of the 158th Fighter Wing while on the installation, and will be made available to the public via the public Vermont Air National Guard website.

6. AGREEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION. This Environmental MOU will be reviewed annually by the base Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Council (ESOHC) during the EMS management review process, and modified as necessary to reflect changes in the installation's mission, or changes in the scope of the EMS. If this Environmental MOU is modified, it will be recommunicated to all persons working for or on behalf of the 158th Fighter Wing while on the installation, and will be made available to the public via the public Vermont Air National Guard website.



DAVID P. BACZEWSKI, Colonel, VTANG
Commander

REVIEWED:

_____

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Judith Galloway
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 8:06 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Basing of F-35s in Burlington

Please do not bring the F-35s to Vermont. My granddaughter who lives in South Burlington has epilepsy and loud noises can cause her to have a seizure. We do not need this noise in Vermont.

Judy Galloway

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Diane Potter
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 8:06 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Comment to AFEIS: Opposition to F35 basing at Burlington

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I would like to add my voice to those of my neighbors in Vermont to oppose the basing of the F-35 jet in Burlington. I am opposed to this because of the adverse health effects and degradation of the quality of life to the communities, families, and children in the areas around the airport. The negative impact of the F-35 jet at Burlington has been misrepresented or downplayed in the Air Force's Draft Environmental Impact Statements, which:

--DOES NOT make clear that the F-35 will be four times louder than the F16. GP-8
--DOES NOT use the most current studies and reports on the significant risks of these noise levels to hearing, cognitive development, and cardiovascular health --DOES identify the F-35's crash risk to be higher than the F16, putting many families and homes in the designated accident potential zones. NO-8 SA-2
--DOES rely on faulty, even purposefully fudged, scoring regarding crash and noise zones to give Burlington top rating for the basing.

The basing of the F35 jet should not be done at the expense of up to 7,000 people (including children, schools, elderly, low income, and disadvantaged residents) in South Burlington and Winooski who will be in a zone not considered suitable for residential use. My Vermont neighbors and their health, quality of life, and economic well-being deserve to be protected by the Air Force and the Vermont Air National Guard, by not allowing the F35 to be based in Burlington.

Sincerely,

Diane Potter

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Joe Venuti
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 7:24 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: SUPPORT for F-35's at BTV

Dear Nicholas Germanos,

I am writing to give my support for the F-35 fighter jets to be based at VTANG. I am a resident of St. Albans, VT and I work full time at BTV for Delta.

I cannot tell you how proud I am of having the F-16's here and am so grateful for the men and women of the Green Mountain Boys. Every time these jets take off or land I stop what I'm doing to watch. They make me feel proud to be an American and live in what is STILL a free society (although barely under this administration). We need to have the best available aircraft stationed ALL around our nation, ready to defend us against whatever the next attack will be.

It absolutely sickens me to have some shortsighted, unintelligent jerks talk about the "not in my back yard" position against the F-35's. NO ONE should listen to these idiots. This is NOT a valid reason for being for or against anything.

My dad used to be a pilot who flew out of JFK for many years. When they first built that airport because New York City had outgrown Laguardia, there was virtually NO ONE living out by Jamaica Bay. Then thousands of people moved next to the airport, who then started complaining about jet noise. Dad always said it takes a special kind of stupid to move next to an airport and complain about jet noise! Dad was right. The Air Force shouldn't listen to anything that people THAT stupid have to say.

My sincerest wish is that the Air Force will place the F-35's at BTV and any other place that the Air Force damned well pleases.

Thank you for even considering VTANG at BTV. If you are here visiting the base please stop by the Delta ticket counter and say hi.

sincerely,

Joseph Scott Venuti

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Elizabeth Stillwell |
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 7:28 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35 Basing Vermont- Opposed

Dear Nicholas,

It is with great respect that I write you to advise that I am opposed to the F-35 basing in VT. As a resident of Winooski I feel that this basing would have a disproportionately negative impact on my community and those surrounding in Chittenden County. While I support the Air Force, it does not make sense to me to base these aircraft in the most densely populated area of any state. These should be placed where they will have the least amount of negative impact on communities with specific consideration given to the health of residents including children in those communities.

While I appreciate all who give their time, careers, and lives to fight for and keep our freedom, I do think that all logistical, health, and social concerns must be looked at when proposing a basing of this nature.

I greatly appreciate your time, and the time that I am sure you have committed to read the views from others in our community.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Stillwell

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Clorinda Leddy
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 7:41 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Opposing F-35's in VT

I absolutely do NOT support stationing the F-35's in Vermont.
You need to STOP this action NOW!
Clorinda Leddy

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: craig carlson
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 7:48 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35 comment

Sir,
With all due respect.
It is very likely that if the f-35's are deployed here in the Burlington area that the response to it will be one of continual site protests, demonstrations and direct actions. It is within the conscience, history and where-with-all of concerned Vermonters to step out and step up to these actions.We already have little tolerance for the noise level of the F-16's and most have been waiting expectantly for their being retired from our skies and ears. Myself and many others who have yet to hit the streets and the town hall debates will be part of a huge public groundswell of dissent and protest. Citizens from around the state will be stirred to participate. The amount of publicity would not fair well with the military and the road to justification of their deployment would be continually met with resistance. Simply look at the history of our work surrounding the closing of Vermont Yankee and recently GMO labeling.

Our community is built on principles of justice, equality and fraternity. We see the right from the wrong and necessity from waste. The cost of a plane's worth can't be argued or justified by the money spent by what simply would translate into feeding people good food instead. Our communities are more concerned and involved with solving our local economic challenges through education, health care, housing and job equity and security and building a sustainable local healthy food system then supporting an out-dated, outrageously costly albatross of an airplane system which addresses and solves nothing more then the concept that the military is right by might. There is another road that many of us are walking on, the strong, the proud, the free and the brave.
We say no to the basing of the F-35's anywhere in Vermont.
Thank you for taking the time for this email and your consideration of it's content.

Sincerely,
Craig Carlson

GO-1

July 15, 2013

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
F-35A EIS Project Manager
HQ ACC/A7NS
129 Andrew St., Suite 332
Langley Air Force Base, VA 23665-2769

Via e-mail: nicholas.germanos@langley.af.mil

Re: F-35A Operational Wing Beddown Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Dear Mr. Germanos:

I am responding to the request for comments regarding the May 2013 Revised EIS. After reviewing updated and corrected data related in particular to the basing of the F-35A at the Burlington AGS, I continue to disagree with the Air Force's selection of Burlington as a "Preferred Alternative."

I do however thank you for updating some of the data used to produce the EIS, in addition to acknowledging the fact that based on the Environmental Criteria only, Burlington is NOT the Preferred Alternative. Even though I understand that the Environmental Criteria is just one of the elements used to determine a bases' suitability for future beddown and is the only one the public has been invited to comment on, I feel that the results of the Environmental Impact Statement should be given much more weight than it appears to have been given even in the Revised EIS.

As I have stated previously, I am neither Anti-Military, nor Anti-Guard, having had family serve in both Active and Guard capacities for many years. I am however, opposed to introducing into the community an element that will have a dramatic impact on the daily lives of at least 2,061 additional individuals (making a minimum total of 6,663 impacted) residing in at least 997 additional households (making a minimum total of 2,963 households impacted (using 2010 data per Table 6-6 of the Executive Summary), while both Air Guard Alternatives not only have less individuals and households impacted at the baseline level to begin with, but also show a DECLINE from their existing conditions when compared to the proposed alternatives.

The EIS clearly states that more individuals and more households will be exposed to more noise with the F-35A basing at Burlington AGS. The fact that noise has even been considered as part of the EIS supports the fact that increased noise is and should be, a valid concern. Exposure to excess noise The basing of even 18 F-35s will deem more households to be located in areas that will be classified as "not suitable for residential use" per the federal government. Since it has been stated that the only feasible noise mitigation effort is home removal which is governed by the airport's civilian directors who have also stated they have no intention of purchasing any more homes through the FAA program than they have already selected, these remaining homeowners will be faced with owning (and possibly residing in)

SO-7

homes that will have been deemed "not suitable for residential use", in addition to now being subject to a higher and more detrimental level of noise exposure. Obviously the future cannot be completely fore told, however, the fact that these homes will carry a negative label as being "not suitable for residential use" will most certainly reduce their marketability and value for future sale.

In addition to my comments above, I have the following questions I would like addressed as they relate to the EIS:

- **Please explain why <u>Table 6-7 SEL and Lmax Comparison for Burlington AGS</u> shows the same SEL & L max numbers for Afterburner Assisted Take-off and Military Power Take-off for both the F-16C and F-35A.** Is there no difference in dBA between Afterburner and Military Power Take-offs? NO-25
- **Where does The Burlington AGS rank related to Cost Criteria?** Local Vermont Guard officials have been reported as stating that the Vermont Air Guard presented a small cost to bring the planes to Burlington, compared to other locations, however, Table 6.2 Proposed Facility Modification for Burlington AGS shows a total cost of $4,690,000, while McEntire's JNGB shows a total cost of $1,175,000, and Jacksonville's Table 8-2 show $400,000 in total cost. SO-11

In closing, I would like to thank the Department of the Air Force for giving individuals the opportunity to comment on the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement. It is my hope that the concerns of those individual who are directly impacted and have made the effort to analyze and comment on the report are given careful and prominent consideration. I also hope that the Air Force will recognize that though the Vermont Air National Guard is well respected and very deserving of its reputation, assigning the F-35A at the expense of the largest number of individuals and households of all the bases currently under consideration for the first round of F-35 basing, will send a very clear message of how little the concerns and welfare of individuals matters. The Vermont Air National Guard is based at a Civilian Air Field, located in the heart of Vermont's most highly populated area. I see no reason that it needs to be selected as a beddown location for the F-35A in the first round of basing, and would suggest that it be considered for future beddowns after the F-35A has been fully operational and would be able to be judged more on fact, than on computer generated analysis and conjecture.

I would appreciate being placed on the mailing list for the Final EIS, assuming it will be distributed in the same format as the May 2013 Revised Draft EIS.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth A. Bossi

Elisabeth A. Bossi
Homeowner and Resident

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Jess Wisloski
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 7:21 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Please don't base your F35s here in VT!

Hi -

I'm not a native Vermonter, but I did decide to leave New York City in 2011, at the ripe and worn-out age of 31, to pursue a quieter, peaceful life in Vermont and get away from the constant activity the city required.

After a year of living in the countryside, and having to drive half an hour to get to anything useful to me (like a grocery store) I opted, with my partner Alex, to move to Winooski, a convenient and still adequately bucolic town that was just steps from Burlington and still on a rushing river and near jobs and shopping and auto repair, etc.

It didn't take long for us to get the full salute - window rattling, brain jarring, cell-phone-conversation stopping noise from the F-16 flights that start as early as 9 a.m. (I've not heard any earlier) and have flown as late at night as 9:30 p.m. (as I discovered with disdain during my pregnancy.)

Our cats would cower, our dog would jump, and everyone felt on edge, if just for a span of time every day.

Yes, it's inconvenient, and the very opposite of bucolic, but I was still confused as to why I'd never noticed them when visiting friends years before. Turns out, it was the afterburners for takeoff that were added in 2008 that made the difference. The noise is an unconscionable load to bring into a neighborhood-ridden area, and it truly feels like we're living in a war zone.

However - it wasn't enough to cause me to want to move, and as renters, we didn't face the problem of having to try and resell in an area after buying into a mistake.

But now I have a baby, and when I'm walking the dog with her, those baby nails dig into my skin every time the planes fly by. Sure, my head shoots with pain on those rare days when I'm already a bit fragile, but it's probably nothing like the pain she suffers just from hearing them.

I have no doubt that our neighborhood would be considered an 'unsuitable' zone for living if your planes come. But it will be only because of the planes, not for any other reason. For the first time in years I've become friends within months of moving in with all our surrounding neighbors. We routinely run into families we know at the park, pushing their kids on the swings or playing fetch with their dog.

I love this town, but it's already nulled itself for me from being a place I could ever potentially buy property; but it's still the place so many young families live and play. I would hate to see it ruined for a boondoggle.

Thanks for listening.

Jess Wisloski

GS-1

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Diane Dufresne
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 7:09 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: f35

I want the F35 to come to Vermont...
Diane Dufresne

Born in Winooski and lived here for 40 years..

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: dacasey
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 7:13 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Oppose F-35 JSF basing at Burlington Air Guard Station
Attachments: F35 DOD second letter 2013.doc

July 15, 2013

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ Air Combat Command/A7PS

129 Andrews Street, Suite 332

Langley Air Force Base

Langley, VA 23665-2769

Dear Mr. Germanos;

I write you to express my strong opposition to the basing of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter at Burlington International Airport (BIA) Guard Station in South Burlington, VT.

First, while I understand and respect that the basing of both current and future military aircraft in BIA brings some economic value to the region, on balance, I expect the F-35 basing and attending decline in affordable real estate for a large portion of adjacent communities will be a net economic drain on the region. According to the latest US Census, the median home value in Chittenden County, VT is $254,700, versus the national median of $186,200. Taking even more housing units out of stock as a result of being designated "incompatible with residential use" will decrease housing supply and force real estate prices even higher. Affordable housing is a particularly important issue in this area which, of course, directly affects the overall health of our economy. Policies and decisions that make this situation worse are unwanted and unwelcome. SO-1

Second, as you are aware, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is a weapons system with a questionable history, mission, and future; it's placement in BIA, to my strategic thinking, also seems questionable. If I am being asked to make sacrifices in the overall health and wellbeing of my community, I want to see more national security cost-effectiveness. The JSF is a less than optimal tool to defend the metropolitan areas of the Eastern United States.

If I am being asked to deal with the increased noise, I would rather see basing of the F-22 or F-18 Super Hornet which are planes better suited to the interception-type missions flown during 9/11. What is a 'Strike Fighter,' a bomber, going to strike within its range from BIA in the US?

If basing the F-35 in South Burlington, VT is about trying to find a place to put a lost weapons system with a questionable future (considering its cost and place in our defense posture), better to cancel to project, adapt those developed technologies to other existent airframes, and move on. The F-35 JSF is a lousy plane, and BIA is a lousy place to put it – from so many perspectives. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

David A. Casey

July 15, 2013

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ Air Combat Command/A7PS
129 Andrews Street, Suite 332
Langley Air Force Base
Langley, VA 23665-2769

Dear Mr. Germanos;

I write you to express my strong opposition to the basing of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter at Burlington International Airport (BIA) Guard Station in South Burlington, VT.

First, while I understand and respect that the basing of both current and future military aircraft in BIA brings some economic value to the region, on balance, I expect the F-35 basing and attending decline in affordable real estate for a large portion of adjacent communities will be a net economic drain on the region. According to the latest US Census, the median home value in Chittenden County, VT is $254,700, versus the national median of $186,200. Taking even more housing units out of stock as a result of being designated "incompatible with residential use" will decrease housing supply and force real estate prices even higher. Affordable housing is a particularly important issue in this area which, of course, directly affects the overall health of our economy. Policies and decisions that make this situation worse are unwanted and unwelcome. GO-1

Second, as you are aware, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is a weapons system with a questionable history, mission, and future; it's placement in BIA, to my strategic thinking, also seems questionable. If I am being asked to make sacrifices in the overall health and wellbeing of my community, I want to see more national security cost-effectiveness. The JSF is a less than optimal tool to defend the metropolitan areas of the Eastern United States. If I am being asked to deal with the increased noise, I would rather see basing of the F-22 or F-18 Super Hornet which are planes better suited to the interception-type missions flown during 9/11. What is a 'Strike Fighter,' a bomber, going to strike within its range from BIA in the US?

If basing the F-35 in South Burlington, VT is about trying to find a place to put a lost weapons system with a questionable future (considering its cost and place in our defense posture), better to cancel to project, adapt those developed technologies to other existent airframes, and move on. The F-35 JSF is a lousy plane, and BIA is a lousy place to put it – from so many perspectives. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

David A. Casey

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Greg EplerWood
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 3:11 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Cc: Helen Head; Mayor Michael O'Brien; Mayor Miro Weinberger; Interim City Manager Kevin Dorn; Rosanne Greco; Helen Riehle; Councilor Karen Paul; Councilor Norman Blais; Councilor Joan Shannon; Charlie Baker; Pam Mackenzie
Subject: Greg Epler Wood's challenge to Air Force EIS Conclusions
Attachments: July 15 2013 Letter to Air Force.pdf

Mr. Nicholas Germanos

HQ ACC/A7PS

129 Andrews Street

Suite 332

Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

July 15, 2013

Dear Mr. Germanos,

Please find attached my comments that provide reasons why I am opposed to the siting of the F-35s at Burlington International Airport. Please note my main technical observation that the EIS has ignored an analysis of the effects of noise on the surrounding community using the unfiltered, unweighted dB measurement. Instead, the EIS report uses the dBA measurement exclusively, thus rendering its analysis of actual effects of F-35 noise incomplete, and its conclusions invalid.

Regards,
Gregory Epler Wood

--
Greg EplerWood

GO-1

GREGORY EPLER WOOD

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ ACC/A7PS
129 Andrews Street
Suite 332
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

July 15, 2013

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I am opposed to the bedding-down of the F-35s in Burlington, Vermont, both for practical reasons, and because I believe the EIS has inadequately measured noise and its effects.

I am a Vietnam War era Air Force veteran, and spent time living on a SAC base where B-52s would land and take off; however, I now live miles from Burlington International Airport (BTV) and am more aware of the F-16s as they interrupt my civilian life than the relatively quiet B-52s did in my office and dormitory on the air force base. An Air Force spokesperson recently cited geographic expedience as a reason to give BTV highest priority on its bed-down siting list; however, I, like many other area residents, believe the same reasoning should apply to *not* placing BTV highest on the list. An airport in such close geographic proximity to and embedded in an urban area should not be allowed to increase its noise level, particularly when there are other more suitable locations absent any otherwise exigent circumstances such as active wartime that might render BTV's strategic location vital to the defense of our nation. I for one do not want to live next to a noisy air force base, which is essentially what BTV will impose upon thousands of us should the F-35s be allowed to bed down here.

Looking at the situation more scientifically, I believe the EIS is quantitatively flawed in two respects: (1) it does not take into consideration the age, construction and other factors of the housing stock within the affected sound area of 65 and 85 dB DNL contour bands; and, (2) the decibel measurement, dBA (which the EIS "conveniently" re-names "dB" throughout the report), should not be used exclusively, because it filters out the lowest frequencies that are not only the most damaging to buildings but also propagate farther through the environment.

NO-26

NO-7

First, according to the United States Census 2011 American Community Survey (ACS) data, the City of Winooski has a total of 3,526 housing units. The median year of construction of this housing stock is earlier than 1949, with 44% built earlier than 1939. Compare this to the median housing stock age for the United States: 1974. Knowing the very modest, wooden structures that comprise the majority of Winooski's housing stock, this indicates that the walls and structural elements are not masonry, but wood, and sound—especially low frequency sound—can not only easily penetrate, but also vibrate these structures. I cannot find Census figures on the rate of air conditioning for Winooski (it may not have been measured); however, the ACS metric is that an incredible 72.5% of owner-occupied homes in the United States has central air conditioning! I can assure you that a more likely figure for Winooski homes easily flips that figure. What this means is that during the late spring, summer and early fall months, folks in Winooski are more likely than not to have their windows open, and more easily susceptible to the noise of F-35 flights. Of course, about 65% of Winooski's housing units are

rentals; however, this fact gives more credence to the supposition that central air-conditioning is rare, indeed, in this city.

The area of South Burlington that immediately surrounds and abuts the Burlington International Airport is U.S. Census Tract 40.02. The housing stock in this area is not quite as old as Winooski's; however, even there, 35% of the housing was built before 1960. But similar to Winooski, the housing stock is generally of modest wood construction and more susceptible to penetration, and resonant vibration of high-decibel sound.

With regard to how age of our housing stock is an indicator of lower-quality construction, here's what the Chittenden Regional Planning Commission (http://www.ccrpcvt.org) had to say in its 2012 Chittenden County Housing Needs Assessment ECOS Analysis Report (pg. 42):

> **Indicators of home quality and durability**
> Like most of Vermont, Chittenden County's housing stock is fairly old. While it is not uncommon for someone to buy an older home and renovate it, the age of the area's housing is an indicator of its quality, safety, and efficiency.
>
> Just under 20% of the region's homes were built before 1940, and an additional 40% were built between 1940 and 1980. Considering the majority of homes were built during a time when lead-based paint was widely used, new energy efficiency technology was not available, and building and accessibility codes did not accommodate all people or safety considerations, there is a good amount of the county's housing stock which is at risk of being unhealthy for its residents.

Table 1: Age of housing stock in areas affected by BTV noise.

Geographic Area	# Housing Units	Median Year Constructed	% Constructed 1959 or earlier	% Constructed 1949 or earlier	% Constructed 1939 or earlier
Winooski, VT	**3,526**	**~ 1948**	**56.8%**	**50.2%**	**43.5%**
South Burlington, VT, Census Tract 40.02	**2,082**	**~ 1979**	**35.0%**	**10.4%**	**3.3%**
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder Table DP04: SELECTED HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.					

The second complaint I have is how the Air Force has measured noise. First of all, the EIS provides self-serving justification for using dBA rather than true dB measurement of F-35 sound intensity. dBA is used in context of the range of human hearing—generally 20Hz to 20KHz—but in the case of structures made of wooden framing, windows and siding, the "equal loudness contours" used by dBA for the lowest frequencies (dropping to zero at 20Hz) makes no sense. Jet engines create plenty of chest-thumping and wooden-structure rattling noise at high intensities, from the lowest range of frequencies audible to the human ear to well below 20Hz. These are exactly the frequencies whose intensities should NOT be eliminated due to their direct and resonant effects on older wooden housing units. For human hearing, using dBA is fine; however, the EIS should analyze the effects of *true dB F-35 loudness intensity* measured across the entire range of frequencies that their engines generate—from below 20Hz to above 20KHz.

Another point: The lowest frequencies of sound propagate farther and with greater chance of amplification due to reflection and echoing: witness the audible rumble of thunder

produced by lightning strikes hundreds of miles away. Or the rumble of heavy vehicles passing by a home on a road or highway, their vibrations propagated through the earth. Lower frequencies are felt, not heard, and not only do these lower frequencies cause damage to older wooden structures (as well as those of masonry construction), the resonant noises created due to the sub-sonic frequencies coming from the wooden structure itself do fall into the range of human hearing. Witness the rattling of windows or a ceramic object dancing off a shelf caused by sub-sonic vibrations, even though the noise causing the vibration is not necessarily objectionable or damaging to the home habitant's ear. These sub-sonic sounds that are felt, and the secondary resonant sounds caused by these sub-sonic sounds (that are within the range of human hearing) create human stress just like those that will, according to the EIS, require demolition of homes and relocation of families.

But it is exactly these frequencies and their effects that the Air Force has ignored by exclusively using the dBA, which "weighs out" damaging lower frequencies[1]. It is vitally important that the Air Force measure actual dB sound intensities with regard to their effective range around the airport, and create a whole new set of maps indicating their effects. The very old housing stock of Winooski, and of only slightly lesser extent South Burlington, render this essential in the case of evaluating BTV as a bed-down location.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Epler Wood

Gregory Epler Wood
Burlington Home Owner

Cc: Hon. Senator Patrick Leahy
Hon. Senator Bernie Sanders
Hon. Representative Peter Welch
Representative Helen Head, VT House Committee on General, Housing & Military Affairs
Winooski Mayor Michael O'Brien
Interim South Burlington City Manager Kevin Dorn
South Burlington Council Chair Pam Mackenzie
South Burlington Councilor Rosanne Greco
South Burlington Councilor Helen Riehle
Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger
Burlington Councilor Joan Shannon
Burlington Councilor Karen Paul
Burlington Councilor Norman Blais
Charlie Baker, Exec. Director, Chittenden County RPC

File: july 15 2013 letter to air force

[1] German audio engineer website http://www.sengpielaudio.com/calculator-dba-spl.htm cautions the use of dBA, which weights-out the lower and upper ranges of frequencies heard by humans: *The weighted sound level is neither a physiological nor a physical parameter. The weighted sound pressure level is less accurate in telling the perceived loudness as a true loudness measuring, but it is much easier to handle. Pro audio equipment often lists an A-weighted noise spec – not because it correlates well with our hearing but because it can "hide" nasty hum components that make for bad noise specs. Words to bright minds: always wonder what a manufacturer is hiding when they use A-weighting.* The caution this audio engineer makes for audio equipment manufacturers applies equally well to the claims the Air Force makes in its EIS.

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Joanna Rankin
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 3:14 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35 aircraft should NOT be deployed in/near Burlington Vermont

As a scientist with an engineering background who has followed the F-35 over its already long and costly life, I strongly oppose bringing this overpriced boondoggle to Vermont. So many aspects of this situation are terribly worrying--- in increased noise, the crash danger, the cost overruns, the misappropriation of national resources at this time of "austerity," and the obviously manipulated disarray of the Air Force's so-called "process" in choosing Burlington by ignoring the presence of thousands of households next door to the airport. It does cause one to question the military's competence to detect foreign threats when it cannot use Google Earth to count houses next to a landmark.

While one can have some concerns about the Vermont Air National Guard, in fact the F-16 will continue to be flown for at least some years. The F-35 is far from ready for widespread deployment, and with its current track record it may never be ready. Nor would it create many jobs in Burlington, since it was specifically designed to be serviced at regional centers. There is every evidence that the F-35 is a machine without a mission: too heavy to be a bomber, too unmaneuverable to be a fighter, and too fast and high flying to give close support. Nor is it in any sense ``stealth,'' since other countries have long had the ability to detect it. Its only successful function has been to funnel huge amounts of taxpayer dollars to Lockheed Martin, its manufacturer. We can ill afford the F-35's costs and overruns. Its enormous cost takes funding away from legitimate military needs, such as providing adequate veteran's benefits.

As a neighbor of the airport just on the other side of Centennial Woods, the noise from the F-16s sometimes shakes the china in the kitchen cabinets. When outdoors, you can usually only be heard over it by shouting. Living with four times that level of noise is almost inconceivable for adults, and for children and wildlife the potential effects are of great concern. F-35s at Burlington Airport will make even larger sections of Burlington uninhabitable according to the Air Force's own noise criteria, with consequent loss of property value, local business clientele, health degradation for children and adults and overall quality of life. And as happens so regularly, it will be most those already disadvantaged economically, Winooski residents who include recent immigrants and refugees who will bear the brunt of it. GO-3

Apart from noise and its health effects, the F-35 threatens our safety. All fighters are dangerous, especially when they are new, but the F-35 is being tested while in production raising the hazards greatly for surrounding communities. At least with the current F-16s we have an airplane that has undergone years of improvements and upgrades.

The F-35 should then not be deployed in or near Burlington, Vermont.

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Regional Homebuilders
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 3:15 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F35s and Vermont

Nicholas,

I am writing you as a new resident of Winooski, Vermont. I live in the crash zone and it's already loud and disruptive when I work from home with the F16s flying overhead. I don't understand why Vermont has gotten this far in the selection based on inaccurate data. The F35 should not be based in the most prosperous and urban region of Vermont.

Winooski has put a lot of work into redevelopment and improving the city and bringing the F35 to fly over the community will be a major setback. There is no quality of life benefit to bringing the F35s to this region. For as many jobs that are being speculated, there will be more people leaving this area because of the quality of life.

With the current F16s, which are quieter, you can see people standing on the streets in Winooski covering their ears and pets cowering when the hear the noise. Bringing the F35 to this area will lower the quality of life, the quality of air and people will move or be forced to move, while loosing value is their largest asset - their home.

Please consider the citizens of this community, as there are many of us that will be impacted. The decisions should be made with the accurate facts and with an objective mind.

Thank you for your time,

Devi Hill

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: gacromack
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 3:18 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35A at Burlington, VT ANG Base

Dear Mr. Germanos:

Please count me (and my wife, also) as being solidly in favor of basing the F-35 with the Vermont Air National Guard in Burlington. My vested interest in this aircraft is that prior to my retirement, I was employed as a primary design and test engineer for certain weapons systems for the F-35 variants. It is this "pride of ownership" that compels me to write this letter.

No doubt, you have read much in opposition to this basing decision. Much of this has been based on the potential environmental impacts, especially the noise levels, and only lately on the effects on cognitive learning in children. Having been exposed to jet noise most of my adult life - first as a Project Officer with the US Air Force and later in my civilian engineering capacity involving weaponization of several Air Force, Navy, Marine, and foreign fighter aircraft (tens of thousands of rounds of ground gun fire testing and flight test/evaluation - I can attest that my hearing is still excellent. I reside directly under the flight path to the Burlington International Airport, and have taken great delight in watching (and hearing) the current F-16s pass over in formation. Prior to the F-16s, VTANG hosted the F-4s, EB-66, and F-102. None of these was known for its "quietude" during operation, but none has evoked the level of resistance of the F-35 basing when its pending arrival was first announced.

Opponents would have one believe that a "majority" of Vermonters support their position. I firmly believe, based on my discussions, that this is not the case. While some may have legitimate (and passionate) concerns based on their proximity to the airport, there is a substantial body of challengers whose motives go beyond just the local basing. Among these are a persistent and vocal group that protests anything military or defense related, the cost and development delays of the F-35 program, the latest war or any war, nuclear power plants, tar sands, "fracking," oil and gas pipelines, fossil fuels - the list goes on. One begins to recognize the same names leading the demonstration as reported in local media. Some are "old friends" whom I recall as having picketed my employer, a major defense contractor, on a regular basis two and three decades ago.

Thank you for allowing me to express my support for the F-35 basing.

Sincerely,

Gordon A. Cromack

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Sally Turner
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 3:25 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35

Dear Sir,
I am opposed to basing the F-35 in Burlington, VT. This noisy, offensive, dangerous and above all, ineffective machine should not be in a populated area like Burlington. Or anywhere.
Thank you for soliciting the local opinion.

Sally Turner

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

GO-1

From: Jerry Greenfield
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 3:38 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35 planes in Vermont

Dear Sir:

I am opposed to the F35 basing in Burlington, VT. The planes are much louder than the current planes. It will be unhealthy for children. It will affect residential homes which are in the zone. It just doesn't make any sense to locate the planes at an airport that has residents living right in the area. Plus it will pollute our environment.

Thanks for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Jerry Greenfield

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: pastornancy
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 4:01 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: opposition to the basing of F-35 in Burlington

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I write as pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, S. Burlington, and as a involved community resident.

I oppose the selection of S. Burlington as a base for the F-35. I believe that the Revised Environmental Impact Statement states that the noise level will be higher than that of the F-16, which has a negative impact on the quality of life in Burlington and especially impacts children's health. Further, the importance of the air craft to US defensive strength is not clear, in as much as its safety has not been fully tested and there are vast cost overruns. Finally, no clear study has been made and publicized of the economic impact that, according to the claims of proponents, will supposedly be positive for Burlington.

I ask that S. Burlington be withdrawn as a site for the basing of the F-35.

Thank you,

Rev. Nancy Wright
Pastor, Ascension Lutheran Church

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: James Leavitt
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 4:22 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35 in Burlington

I'm in support of the F-35's at Burlington, Vermont. It would be music to my ears. Thank you and endure.

Sent from my iPhone

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

G0-1

From: Beverly
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 4:36 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Opposition to basing F35 fighter jets in Vermont

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I am writing to express my opposition to the basing of the F35 fighter jets in the Burlington area of Vermont. It appears that the main rationale for a decision to favor this area is due to the small amount of air traffic in this region. However, to many people in our area, including me, our status as the 'favored' location for the F35s appears to be based on faulty information.

This is a close-knit community and many families live very close to the airport. Additionally, several schools will be affected during the school day by the increased noise of the F35s. There are sober ramifications of the negative effects on quality of life in our area, to say nothing of the health effects on all--and particularly on children and on minority ethnicity families and low-income families.

Further, approximately 100 pages of important information regarding the effects of the F35 in our area were not released until nearly 3 weeks after the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released. This section included substantive questions that people were asking as well as the important information provided by the Air Force in response to those questions. Given the pivotal nature of that content, I believe that it is reasonable to offer people more time to consider the points in it. Please extend the Public Comment period to offer the public 45 days starting from the date that the FULL Revised DEIS was released, rather than May 31st, the date on which the incomplete Revised DEIS was released. GP-15

I know that you are hearing now from many others who oppose the F35 in our area, so I will not repeat here the many, many points that they will have raised in their messages. Please be assured that I am deeply troubled by the careless and thoughtless manner in which these fighter jets are being pushed through toward being likely settled in northwest Vermont.

I urge you to use what power you have to give full consideration to the serious concerns of our citizens. This area is the wrong choice for the F35 fighter jets.

Sincerely,
Beverly Keim