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FACTS from the US Air Force Draft Environmental Impact Statement

1) Noise Level

The F-35 is more than four times louder than the F-16. (BR4-18 and C-6 or C-9)

2) Residential Area

The F-35 will put 2944 homes, 6675 people, five schools and six churches in a zone "generally not considered suitable for residential use", including more than half of Winhooski. (C-14)

3) Property Values

Homes exposed to the increased noise from the F-35 (compared to the F-16) may lose between 11% and 42% of their value. (BR4-18 and C-47)

4) Crash Risk

Projected "Class A Mishaps" (the crash rate) for the F-35 during years 2-5 is 11 times higher than those of the current F-16. (BR4-46 and BR4-47)

5) Home Loans

HUD, FHA and VA loans are not assured for homes in the noise zone. Homeowners may be required to disclose that their homes have been designated as "not suitable for residential use" to potential buyers (C-47)

6) Other Sites

The other bases being considered for the F-35 have virtually unchanged or greatly reduced noise impacts compared to their present aircraft. Burlington is the only base for which the noise impact of the F-35 is high: up to 90% greater impacts than the present aircraft.

7) Children

The F-35 will expose students at Chamberlin Elementary School in South Burlington to levels of noise many times louder than what is considered acceptable for schoolchildren. (C-21 and C-6 or C-9)

8) Affected Communities

The excessive noise of the F-35 is "disproportionately" directed at our low-income and immigrant communities. (BR4-77)

9) Economy

The \$53 million figure often stated as the payroll of the Vermont Air National Guard (VTANG) is not supported by the data. The Air Force says that with the F-35, the total VTANG payroll is less than 1% of the total non-farm income of Chittenden County. (BR4-71 and BR4-73)

10) Jobs

Of the 1,130 personnel at VTANG, 730 train one weekend a month and "hold full-time jobs outside the Vermont ANG." 333 are full-time military. The full-time jobs outside VTANG are not at risk. Full-time membership in the military is also not at risk. (BR4-71)

OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES

- Information submitted for the military's initial screening process to determine the best location for the F-35 said no homes were in the noise and crash zones, and Burlington received the full 6 points for these criteria. The Air Force EIS shows more than 1500 homes in those zones; Burlington should have received zero points and been disqualified from consideration.
- The South Burlington City Council, School Board, and Planning Commission and the Winhooski School Board have all voted to oppose the F-35.
- The F-35 is described by its maker, Lockheed Martin, as a first-day-of-the-war, long range high altitude stealth bomber that carries 18,000 pounds of bombs. Representing it only as a fighter jet designed for patrol/air defense is misleading.
- The F-35 program is going to cost taxpayer more than \$15 trillion dollars over its 30-year lifetime.
- Neither the Air Force nor the Vermont Air National Guard (VTANG) states that the Guard Base will close or downsize if Burlington does not get the F-35.
- The EIS mentions no plans by the Air Force, VTANG or the airport to compensate home owners for the loss of home value or to compensate affected cities and the Vermont Education Fund for lost tax revenues from the lower property values that may result from the F-35.
- The EIS mentions no plans by the Air Force, VTANG, or the airport to mitigate the noise impacts of the F-35, and the FAA says that no noise mitigation methods actually work.