

The Revised Environmental Impact Statement **Errors Discount F-35 Noise Health Impacts**

What the Air Force tells us in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS):

- The US EPA identifies 55 decibel average sound levels as a maximum in order to protect public health and welfare with an adequate margin of safety. Residents in the F-35 noise zone will be chronically exposed to average daily noise levels more than twice as loud as the EPA recommends, thus these areas are generally considered unsuitable for residential use
- Noise of the F-35 will cause significant speech interference in homes, offices and industrial settings.
- WHO recommends 35 decibel background noise levels in classrooms in order to maintain speech intelligibility. At 118 dB, the F-35 is eight times louder than the recommendation. Students with special needs are particularly vulnerable.
- Low altitude military jet overflights may cause hearing loss
- Noise exposure may cause hypertension and other stress related effects
- Noise may disrupt and degrade performance of demanding tasks.
- Noise has been shown to be especially harmful to children, impairing cognitive abilities, causing reading deficits, impaired speech perception, attention, problem solving, and memory.
- World Health Organization: day care centers and schools should not be located near major noise sources.

What the DEIS got wrong:

- The revised DEIS also claims that many ill effects of noise, such as high blood pressure and heart attack will not affect most residents in the F-35 65 dB DNL zone because these effects only occur at higher noise levels, i.e. 75 dB DNL and above. But this claim is based on old, outdated scientific studies.
- The World Health Organization, based on the research of the last ten years, finds that people chronically exposed to F-35 noise levels will suffer increased risk of high blood pressure and heart attack, and that 50% of the children will suffer cognitive impairment. (See WHO, Burden of Disease from Environmental Noise)
- How did the Air Force, in the DEIS miss these important findings? By simply ignoring all of the relevant research done during the last ten years.
- Bottom line: living in the F-35 noise zone creates risk of serious adverse health effects for both children and adults.

June 2013, Stop the F-35 Coalition (www.stopthef35.com)