

Political Participation of Vermont Air National Guard Senior Officers

MG Cray says “a vote of no” shows support for the Guard (2-9-18)

<https://vtdigger.org/2018/02/09/air-guard-pushes-back-f-35-ballot-measure/>

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MG Cray claims ballot item misleads the voters (2-9-18)

<http://www.vermontbiz.com/news/2018/february/12/air-guard-responds-anti-f-35-burlington-ballot-question>

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BG Clark says their press conference was held because of upcoming vote on ballot measure (3-1-18)

<https://vtdigger.org/2018/03/01/vermont-air-guard-details-f-35-plans-ahead-contentious-ballot-measure/>

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BG Clark says a vote of ‘no’ supports the Vermont Air National Guard (3-3-18)

<http://freebeacon.com/issues/burlington-vt-prepares-vote-f-35-base/>

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Vermont Air National Guard gives reporters a tour of base a week before Burlington vote stepping up their outreach efforts. BG Clark called ballot item “inaccurate” (3-1-18)

<http://digital.vpr.net/post/vermont-air-national-guard-prepares-f-35s-amid-burlington-vote-stop-them>

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Col Harder, Wing Vice Commander talks about voting on ballot item during Burlington Neighborhood Planning Assembly — Harder speaks 28 minutes into recording. (2-28-18)

<http://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/burlington-wards-47-npa-meeting-0>

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158th Fighter Wing Statement to the Burlington City Council by Wing Vice Commander, Col Hank Harder saying ballot item does not support Guard (1-29-2018) (written statement)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2ezkbu7urc1b09t/Col%20Hank%20Harder%20letter%20to%20Burlington%20CC%201-29-2018.jpeg?dl=0>

158th Fighter Wing Vice Commander, Col Hank Harder’s public statement before the Burlington City Council (1-29-2018) (video coverage)

<https://youtu.be/KNgg27coyx4?t=35m46s>

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BG Clarks says he hopes ballot item is rejected by voters (3-5-18)

<http://www.mynbc5.com/article/final-pitches-for-and-against-burlington-s-f35-referendum/19124316>

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Senior Guard leaders invite the media to base saying they hope voters will vote “no” on ballot item

<http://www.mynbc5.com/article/on-eve-of-voter-referendum-vt-guard-assures-residents-f-35-noise-won-t-be-so-bad/18931115>

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Col Harder, at Burlington city council, calls ballot item unnecessary and disingenuous (1-29-18)

<https://www.sevendaysvt.com/OffMessage/archives/2018/01/30/burlington-residents-will-vote-on-f-35-question-as-written>

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In unprecedented press conference and behind the scenes tour for the press, VTANG officials say they want the public to know their side of the story (3-2-18)

<http://www.vermontbiz.com/news/2018/march/02/f-35-ballot-question-has-both-sides-scrambling>

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VTANG says to show support for the Guard, vote “no” on ballot item (3-4-18)

<http://www.wcax.com/content/news/YCQM-March-4-2018-475744323.html>

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In-depth coverage of VTANG involvement in the F-35 basing issue. Part 3 reports on VTANG (2-27-18)

<https://vtdigger.org/rough-landing-inside-years-long-debate-f-35s-vermont/>

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Adjutant General, MG Cray speaks to the Burlington City Council in uniform on 10-28-13 asking them to vote against the council resolution (16 minute point)

<https://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/special-burlington-city-council-meeting-f-35s-part-1>

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Adjutant General MG Steven Cray’s October 2013 letter to Burlington City Council

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/assets/0/122/318/360/815/816/1584/2345/78ff2a37-f9a0-43f5-bf65-8397f2fbce18.pdf>

Lt Col Caputo speaks to the Burlington City Council in uniform on 10-28-13 urging the city councilors to "vote no" on a council resolution (46 minute point)

<https://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/special-burlington-city-council-meeting-f-35s-part-1>

CITATIONS ON VTANG POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT AS CITED IN
THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD OF THE F-35A BASING PROCESS

Cray to Fick, Clark, Harris, Caputo, Baczewski, Goodrow, Irish, Kleptz (3-9-10) Subject: Media Messages for F35. "All, Here's some thought I have regarding the development of our community management strategy. First I think it's time to publish a letter to the editor in the BFP as an update on the "facts". It's imperative that we get Sheryl in front of the SB council in April. An invite to the VTANG for meet and greet. Timing TBD." #40684

Goodrow to Abbott (9-2-10) Subject: Regarding Organizing Efforts for the F-35. "There are many opportunities out there to promote the possibilities of the VTANG's bedding down of the F-35 in the future. That being said, there is great temptation for members of the VTANG to become engaged in a political process that is outside of our legal lanes. As a military organization it is improper for us to utilize the email systems to push any sort of agendas as an effort to influence our public or the USAF toward any decision process. That being said, efforts to institute or participate in any "We Support the F-35 Campaign" by way of petition or active participation in efforts toward those means would be improper. Military Organization are prohibited from solicitation.

If individuals want to get the news out through their personal websites, facebook, email links, etc. they must do it as individuals and should not do it as a member of the Vermont Air Guard or imply that the Air Guard is driving this ship...because we CAN'T and Aren't driving the ship.

It is totally appropriate for the Air Guard to support requests for information on the F-35 to organizations like the Chamber of Commerce, etc..but we should not be building their agenda for them. I do believe that it is now appropriate for the VTANG to engage with the Rotary, etc in order to update them on the EIS process, etc, and update on VTANG activities. This should NOT be an opportunity to tell folks to organize on our behalf but it purely an effort to keep the public informed on the EIS process. Engaging with the public in this respect is not only appropriate but expected under the EIS process. If the Chamber wants to bounce ideas off of us...we need to remember that their efforts on our behalf are THEIR efforts and we are only responding to legitimate, appropriate requests for information that could very well be used to support THEIR efforts toward supporting the F-35 in Burlington. Offers of F-16 flights or positions of honor for organization offering support would NOT be appropriate.

We have been telling the public from day one that this is a United States Air Force Process that we did NOT solicit...although we are grateful for the acknowledgement the USAF has given us in their selection of the 158FW as a prime location for the F-35. If we appear to be actively soliciting and behind the scenes activists toward these means, we could impact our credibility with those who we already are on shaky grounds with." #44143. **NOTE: PARTS OF THIS EMAIL ARE MISSING AND ARE LABELED "PRIVILEGED"**

Finnegan to Clark (8-14-13) "After attending the council meeting on Monday, I would like to send this to the councilors. I could perhaps also attach our response to their last resolution (which I sent to each of them last time). Our response last time didn't turn out to be a large press event so I don't think this will either." #62039

Clark to Finnegan (8-14-13) "Don't send this until I get in touch with BG Harris. We'll definitely reach out to President Shannon." #62039

Clark to Harris (8-14-13) "A statement at the next council meeting will be too late. I think Gump's response to Shannon should go forward sooner rather than later. Additionally **we need to invite all the BTV councilors to come visit the VTANG (in small groups to avoid a public meeting)** and educate them on these issues." #62038

Caputo to Harris (9-30-13) "I think this response is going to be critical in **helping to block any type of Resolution Opposing the Basing of F35s coming from the Burlington City Council.**" #63077