

What others have said about the F-35

"The F-35 program's record of performance has been both a scandal and a tragedy with respect to cost, schedule and performance."

~ Former Senator **John McCain**, Chairman of Senate Armed Services Committee

"An inherently terrible airplane, [the product of] an exceptionally dumb piece of Air Force PR spin."

~ **Pierre Sprey**, co-designer of F-16 and A-10 fighter jets

"That's a piece of [expletive] ... We have created a monster."

~ Acting Secretary of Defense **Christopher Miller** under Donald Trump

Act Now!

Contact these elected officials:

Senator **Tammy Baldwin** 608-264-5338.

Urge her to withdraw her support for the F-35s.

Governor **Tony Evers** 608-266-1212

Dane County Executive **Joe Parisi** 608-266-4114

Mayor **Satya Rhodes-Conway** 608-266-4611

Urge them to voice stronger opposition to F-35s at Truax.

More information:
safeskiescleanwaterwi.org

NO F-35 Jets In Madison



**Madison has been chosen
To receive a squadron of
20 F-35 fighter jets by 2023.**

More information: safeskiescleanwaterwi.org



IN BRIEF: WHY WE'RE OPPOSED

Noise: The F-35 will be at least four times louder and will result in more frequent flights than currently: 47% more sorties initially and eventually 27% more. More than 1,000 homes would be deemed "incompatible for residential use."

Racial, Social & Economic Injustice: The project will have a "disproportionate impact" on people of color, low-income communities, and children, according to the Air Force's own study. Many people will be forced to relocate, if they can afford to.

Health & Climate Change: Negative impacts of noise on children include cognitive impairment, reading, memory and post-traumatic stress. Each jet will emit seven tons of CO2 for every hour in flight. The F-35s will also emit other harmful chemicals and fine and large particulates, making breathing difficult for everyone, but particularly children.

Safety & Nuclear Weapons: Because of the nature of the plane's composition and its stealth coating, a crash of the F-35 in or near Madison would emit toxic fumes for miles. The jet is also designed to carry B61-12 nuclear bombs, which adds to the danger and will make Madison a target in a nuclear confrontation.

Cost: The F-35 is the most expensive weapons system in history and will cost US taxpayers \$1.7 trillion over the life of the project. The actual sticker price for one F-35A is \$110.3 million, meaning the cost to taxpayers of the Truax squadron will be \$2,206,000,000! Wouldn't it be better to devote this money to fighting pandemics, educating our children, creating clean energy jobs, and providing health care for everyone?

Above: Alder Syed Abbas speaking at Eken Park Press Conference, July 8, 2021. Photo by Tom Boswell. Front cover images licensed through Creative Commons.

You want talking points?

Dangerous Noise Levels

The F-35s are expected to be four times louder than the current F-16s.

There would be an initial 47% increase in military operations and 27% long-term. The level of noise can have a detrimental effect on a variety of people including those with PTSD, autism, mental illness and other neurological and sensory vulnerabilities. Children will especially be affected.

The number of households within the 65 dB contour zone would increase by 1,019 and the number of people exposed would increase by 2,215. One hundred and thirty-two households and 292 people would be located in the 75dB contour zone where housing is “incompatible.”

Some noise abatement funds may be available through the FAA after a lengthy review process which would not begin until about two years after “beddown” begins and flights are stabilized. The initial increase in flights is due to having both F-16s and F-35s at the base.

Racial, Social and Environmental Justice

There will be a significant disproportionate impact to low-income and minority populations as well as children, according to the Environmental Impact Statement produced by the Air Force.

Medical studies have shown that noise has a far-reaching impact that can lead to stress, sleep disturbance, high blood pressure, heart disease and strokes. Children will be particularly impacted



by increased noise levels, producing cognitive impairment, negative effects on reading and memory, and post-traumatic stress. Children in the Truax area are already struggling prior to starting school, according to a 2018 Madison neighborhood study, with less than half considered “kindergarten ready.” In a city struggling to overcome persistent racial disparities, flying an outrageously noisy fighter jet over elementary schools is likely to intensify the equity injustice.

Other Pollution

No analysis has been done for hazardous water pollutants regulated by the DNR.

The Wisconsin DNR ordered the Wisconsin Air National Guard, Dane County and City of Madison to investigate and remediate highly toxic PFAS pollution located on and emanating from the air base but little action has been taken thus far. The State

We’ve got talking points.

Brian Benford, Alder, District 6, Madison Common Council:

“We suffer from some of the worst racial disparities in the country. Whether it’s education, income, housing insecurity, police interactions, our criminal justice system. So, here we are today, another disparity, another assault, is headed our way. I can’t even call them what they are. I call them an insidious weapon of mass destruction. They’re not jets. They’re designed to kill black and brown people all around the world.”

is considering health standards of 20 ppt of these “forever chemicals” in drinking and surface water. But testing of surface and groundwater on the base, in Starkweather Creek and in its fish has revealed contamination hundreds and thousands of times beyond this limit.

Nuclear Weapons

Pilots at Truax will be training to fly the F-35A fighter jet, a plane designated as a key part of the US strategic nuclear force in the Pentagon’s 2018 Nuclear Posture Review.

All F-35s will eventually be capable of carrying two B61-12 variable capacity nuclear warheads, up to four times more powerful than the bombs that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Truax would not initially have nuclear weapons onsite but, if the planes were given a nuclear mission, the military is not required to disclose this to the public.

Costly

The cost of each F-35A to taxpayers is \$110.3 million, according to the Center for Defense Information, and each hour of flight is about \$40,000 per plane.

A portion of the cost for Truax to accommodate the F-35s will be borne by state and local taxpayers. This includes the clean-up of existing contaminants at the base and noise mitigation and housing for residents who need to be relocated. Dane County is responsible for all noise abatement, not the military. Costs could reach tens of millions to relocate people and to soundproof homes in the impacted areas. There will be no funding for abatement of the homes of the 60,000 people immediately outside of the 75 dB zone. And there is no way to mitigate noise outdoors.

Unnecessary

Many military experts contend that fighter jets would be useless in a nuclear war and other jets are better suited for conventional warfare.

Our current security threats come from pandemics, cyber attacks and terrorism, none of which the F-35 can counter. The Air Force states the F-35 project will bring “no significant impacts to socioeconomics” and only provide “up to” 64 jobs for Lockheed Martin and regular Air Force personnel. The F-35 is a “job killer” when compared to jobs that can be created in education, clean energy, health care and infrastructure for the same investment. Trading in fighter jets for a new Air National Guard mission, such as medical and disaster relief, will provide more jobs and align more closely with Madison’s progressive values.

**Say it with us: NO
F-35 Jets In Madison**