

"F-35s = Child Abuse"
Documentary by Safe Skies Clean Water
Video Transcript

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZxLkZbgkxY>

Channel 12 ABC News Report in Milwaukee - Lockheed Martin calls the F-35 Lightning 2 the world's most advanced multi-role fighter. It's a single seat, single engine jet. The F-35 is expected to arrive at Truax in 2023.

Narrator - The Air Force's decision to deploy the F-35 fighter jets to Truax Field was controversial as thousands of Madison residents registered their opposition. Of the more than 6,000 comments submitted on the draft environmental impact statement for five potential sites, 89% of those were submitted regarding Truax.

Lance Green of Safe Skies - We could be spending that on health-care, education, infrastructure, things that we really need as people and as a country.

Narrator - The EIS stated that Truax Field would experience the greatest environmental impacts of all sites, even though the statement did not even consider noise and safety impacts on the surrounding urban area and the 60,000 people living within three miles of the base.

Eugenia Granados Highland of Eken Park Neighborhood in Madison - I don't take for granted a lot of the privileges that I have as a Mexican woman and living here in Madison and as a woman being able to walk on my neighborhood, you know, and feeling safe. You start building a lot of hope. And when I learned all this, I had the impression, oh my God. I have to move again. So I'm worried, I'm worried if I have to move again. I'm worried if I have to find another place where I can find safety, especially for me and my daughter. And also everything that I've worked so far is just going to be crumbling.

Ann Behrmann, M.D. of Physicians for Social Responsibility - When we hear loud sounds. The brain has the ability to turn on the facial nerve that dampens the obstacles to the bones of the middle ear. So it dampens down sound. But the problem with impulse sound is that there's not time to do that. Think that the F-16s are going to be at peak about 94 decibels. The F-35s at about 115. The ear will perceive the difference between the F-16s and the F-35s at about four times louder. Loud noises like airplanes, particularly the F-35s and the F-16s have a bigger impact on kids because partly because they're in a different stage of development than an adult is. Their ability to learn language, for instance, is hugely expansive from the time kids are born until they start really speaking at about age one and up until school age, when they become really fluent in speech. You're developing pathways in your brain for to recognize sound and understand and be able to interpret sounds. I think the other thing to understand is kids have small ear canals. They have very tiny ear canals. So the same level of noise for a child is much more irritating, aggravating damaging than it would be for an adult.

Local 22 ABC TV News Report in Burlington, Vermont - Although the F-35s have been in Vermont for nearly two years to the day, people that live in and around the flight path are still pushing to have the jets removed out of Vermont. Dozens of people in Winooski sounded off Tuesday evening about how the noise from the F-35s negatively impacts their day-to-day life.

Resident at Winooski City Council Meeting - They literally make you shake and my ears just rattle my inner ears. I can just hear it rattling even with my hands over them.

Dr. Sam Russo at Winooski City Council Meeting - When people are exposed to these noise levels. It's not just that you're hearing a loud sound temporarily and then you get over it. There are studies that demonstrate the neurohormonal changes to this type of noise that have long term effects on learning and aversive behavior as well as presenteeism, which is the ability to be present at the task at hand. And it causes permanent neuromodulation in kids, meaning as they repeatedly are exposed to a stressor, they can have permanent changes to their nervous system that's going to affect behavior and function down the road. And over time that's not going to change. So it's not really a question of if the F-35s are causing harm. It's to what extent are the F-35s causing harm.

Ann Behrmann, M.D. of Physicians for Social Responsibility - There are three elementary schools within a mile of Truax Field. There are something like 18 schools, that's a lot of elementary schools, about four middle schools and two high schools that are within the three mile radius of the airport. There's also nine or 10 private and parochial schools that are within that three mile radius and more than two dozen daycare centers including one of the big Head Start centers in the city of Madison. Infants are in day care centers, and infants don't have the ability yet to cover their ears when they hear a loud sound. There's a school called Richardson School that cares for children with autism spectrum disorder and also some other behavioral and neurodevelopmental issues. That's on the road to the airport. Those kids are much more fragile in how they respond to the environment. Of any kids are going to be the most affected.

Allison M., Neighbor of Truax Field and Bella's Mom - Bella being neurodivergent, being on the spectrum, having components of ADHD, anxiety and dysregulation symptoms, auditory stimulation plays a huge factor in our daily life and in her sensory diet. We've had to find alternatives to set up situations where she can be successful specifically as it relates to sounds. So one of those things is like riding the bus in the morning.

Bella - The bus is very loud because all the kids scream and yell and they sometimes they even cuss. And so I think being on the bus is a little bit too noisy.

Bella's Mom - And even though it's a short period of time, when she gets to school after riding the school bus, it's really hard for her to get back into regulation. It's distracting and it adds another demand onto the nervous system and it's something that has to be recovered from. A simple distraction, something that might take you 5 to 10 seconds to come

back from, could take a kid like mine who takes extra time to process everything, you know, it could set off the whole day. It could take an hour or two. So reducing that auditory demand can really help these kids be successful throughout the day in the school system.

Ann Behrmann, M.D. of Physicians for Social Responsibility - The kids that are really going to be the most affected we think are kids that have a lot of something called ACES or Adverse Childhood Experiences. Kids with adverse childhood experiences have higher levels of anxiety and higher levels of depression. The anxiety is partly because when you have these really frightening things happen, or you're anxious about them happening, the fight or flight reflex happens to most all of us, so your adrenaline levels go up, your cortisol levels go up. Those are stress hormones that happens in kids as well as adults. But the F-35s, it's loud noises, suddenly. You don't have any warning. For the people that are already at risk for anxiety and depression, it's probably going to lead to a triggering of some of those stress level hormones.

Ann Behrmann, M.D. of Physicians for Social Responsibility - There are 800 low-income housing units within like 1500 feet, I think of the 65 decibel noise level. 70% of the residents of those housing units are people of color. And those are kids that attend the three elementary schools that are within the one mile radius.

Kate Lyman, Retired MMSD Teacher - I am a retired teacher. I taught for 30 years at Hawthorne Elementary School. The school is a very diverse. It's a very diverse community. Over 70% are minority students. I loved working with them, but it was hard often to get them focused on academic work. It would take a while to get them to settle down. I finally get them settled down, and then we'd hear the roar of the F-16s and I'd have to stop teaching, just totally stop teaching. It would interrupt everything. And I started thinking about the F-35s, which are even louder. And I thought this is just terrible. Because we already have these kids and these families who live at Truax Apartments which is right nearby. They have to add this to the burdens that they already face. And I thought that's just not fair.

Ann Behrmann, M.D. of Physicians for Social Responsibility - The other big thing people need to think about with schools is kids need to go outside. I'm talking about toddlers as well as school age kids. Outdoor time gives kids time to learn social skills with other kids. It also builds gross motor and fine motor skills and you can't keep kids inside. So what do you do with the outside? We can we can remediate, presumably if we have enough money, all the schools that are affected. You know, \$5 million for each school. That's quite a lot of money that the taxpayers in Madison and Dane County are probably going to need to bear to help the public school system. But what we can't do anything about the outdoors. The only solution we could think of when talking about this, this is myself, family practice doctors and pediatricians, was to put kids in noise-canceling headphones. And how are you going to have 30 kids in the playground who can't hear?

Eugenia Granados Highland of Eken Park Neighborhood in Madison - The physical and psychological and emotional impact of having these awful

planes flying around, and the impact that it has on young children and children with disabilities, that's what I think, you know, the conversation should be about.

No F-35 Protest March Chant - We don't want this war machine.

Narrator - If we want in Madison the 115th Fighter Wing to be an asset to our community, we should find a new mission for the Air National Guard that is appropriate and compatible for our urban area. Rather than continuing the divisive proposal to bring F-35 jets to Truax Field in Madison, let's work to find a new mission for the 115th Fighter Wing that benefits the entire community, one of which we can all be proud.

No F-35 Protest March Chant - El pueblo unido jamas sera vencido..