



GBIC

Good Jobs In A Clean Environment

October 25, 2012

To: City Council of South Burlington, Vermont
From: Frank Cioffi
Re: Petitions for the Basing of the F 35
CC: Sandy Miller

Hand Delivered on October 25, 2012

Attached please find a petition signed by 10,741 people that are requesting that the City Council of South Burlington abandon its current and publicly stated opposition to the bed down of the Air Force's F-35 aircraft at the Vermont Air National Guard (VT ANG) Base at Burlington International Airport in South Burlington, Vermont.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

The exact wording of the petition is as follows:

Dear Members of the South Burlington City Council,

The undersigned hereby respectfully request that the Council abandon its current and publicly stated opposition to the bed down of the Air Force's F-35 aircraft at the Vermont Air National Guard (VT ANG) Base at Burlington International Airport in South Burlington, Vermont. Based upon the Air Force's published DEIS and the facts contained therein we believe that the economic benefits and national security concerns far outweigh any real or perceived negatives that may accompany the upgrade of the existing F-16 fleet to the new and much improved F-35 aircraft.

For reasons stated below we, the undersigned, request that the South Burlington City Council reverse its decision and publicly issue a statement in support of the F-35 bed down at the Vermont Air National Guard base at Burlington International Airport.

WHY THE SO. BURLINGTON COUNCIL'S POSITION IS WRONG

We feel that while the environmental impacts should certainly be taken in to account we do not believe that the findings of the report in any way constitute a significant and overly burdensome change from the current situation which has been in place for decades, employs many of our neighbors and fellow South Burlington residents and contributes a substantial amount of economic activity each year to our community, Chittenden county and the entire State of Vermont.

More specifically we have based our opinions upon the actual findings of the DEIS, which in many cases the opposition has distorted to enlist more support for their cause. The actual facts from the DEIS include the following:

1. **Noise:** The 65 Decibel Noise Line threshold actually decreases area coverage in South Burlington from its current levels which is clearly depicted on the DEIS noise map. In fact, six of the seven measured areas in South Burlington either decrease in noise disruption or stay the same. BR 4-27
2. **Protection of children:** The noise level at Chamberlain School actually reduces from the 3db they currently experience with the existing F-16s. BR4-27
3. **Operations:** Operations at the airport will decrease by 803 sorties (24 jet scenario) or 2613 sorties (18 jets), respectively depending upon the level of aircraft stationed there. BR4-5
4. **Air Pollution:** The replacement of the F-16s by the new F-35s will actually reduce air pollution by over 3000 metric tons per year. BR4-41

Furthermore, these are direct quotes from the DEIS:

Impact on air pollution: "Neither ANG Scenario 1 nor 2 would introduce emissions that would deteriorate regional air quality; the area would remain in attainment for all federal and state air quality standards." ES-12

Impact on safety: "In addition, the F-35A engine is the product of 30 years of engineering, lessons learned from previous single-engine aircraft, and an extensive, rigorous testing program. Overall, the risks of a mishap are not expected to increase substantially" ES-12

Impact on biological resources: "No impacts to wildlife, threatened and endangered species, wetlands, or plants would occur. Decreased airfield operations would result in a decreased opportunity for bird/wildlife-aircraft strikes to occur." ES-12

Impact on cultural and traditional resources: "There would be no adverse impacts to National Register-eligible

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archaeological, architectural, or traditional cultural properties." ES-13

Impact on socioeconomics: "Scenario 2 would generate an increase of 266 military personnel, and an annual increase in salaries of approximately \$3.4 million. Either scenario would expend an estimated \$2.34 million in 2016 for proposed modification projects. The Burlington area would likely provide the skilled workers for the temporary construction jobs." ES-13

Impact on ground traffic: "Despite a negligible, short-term increase in construction traffic, ANG Scenario 1 would not change travel demand for the base or affect the Level of Service (LOS) for any portion of the roadway network." ES-13

Impact on other resources: "The EIS analyzed the potential environmental consequences of implementing ANG Scenarios 1 and 2 on three other resources: geology, soils, and water (BR3.5 in the EIS); community facilities and public services (BR3.13); and hazardous materials and waste (BR3.15). No aspect of the bed down scenarios would result in impacts to these resources." ES-13

In addition to the above facts on the environmental and social impacts the following economic factors are also irrefutable:

The Vermont Air National Guard represents 1,100 local jobs (400 full time and 700 part time).

The VT ANG has been an active and contributing member to the South Burlington community (as well as the entire state and country) for the past 66 years.

The VT ANG has an annual local payroll of \$53 Million.

616 members of the VT ANG live in the area around the Burlington International Airport.

The VT ANG provides \$2.4 Million annually to the Burlington International Airport for fire and rescue services.

The VT ANG contributes an additional \$325,000 per year for hotel, food and services to the local economy as a result of its Drill Weekends.

The VT ANG contributes an additional \$600,000 per year to the local economy due its Mission Training Center activities.

In addition Lockheed Martin anticipates an additional 173 direct local jobs and \$24.7 Million in direct financial benefit to Vermont if the F-35 were based here. Moreover, they anticipate another 485 indirect local jobs and another \$27.2 Million in indirect financial benefit to Vermont.

The VT ANG currently represents only 5% of airport traffic and that number would drop significantly with the introduction of the F-35.

From the June 13, 2012 Burlington Free Press: Major General Michael "Dubie said looming Defense Department spending cuts underline the importance of having the F-35s assigned to the Vermont Air National Guard.

"It could be really bad for units that have old airplanes, and we've got old airplanes," he said. "We have to get some new crafts in the future if we want to stay flying."

Despite claims to the contrary, if the VT ANG is not chosen as the location for the F-35 there will be a significant and negative impact to the South Burlington community through a loss of jobs and revenue to local businesses. If you take away the fact that the Vermont Air National Guard has long since proven themselves through their defense of our state and country, we are still left with the fact that they are a major economic contributor to our local economy. They inject substantial amounts of income on a yearly basis and they employ hundreds of our family members, friends and neighbors.