

MEDIA PREPARATION

Q-1: *As I understand it, Truax is selected as a preferred location for a new squadron of F-35s, but that their deployment here isn't yet guaranteed. When will Madison know for sure if we will get the aircraft or not, and what factors influence that decision?*

- A. Yes, Truax Field was selected as one of two preferred candidates, along with Dannelly Field in Montgomery, AL, to receive a squadron of new F-35As. Before either of the locations can be awarded the new aircraft, federal law requires that an environmental impact statement (EIS) be completed. We are in the beginning stages of the EIS right now. After this has been completed, in approximately late 2019, we anticipate that Truax Field will be awarded the new F-35s. This is pending a final decision by the Secretary of the Air Force and a successful EIS.
- B. One thing that I would like to clarify is that both Truax Field and Dannelly Field were selected to potentially receive the F-35A mission. We are not competing against each other for the aircraft and we are both going through the EIS process.

Q-2: *In the discussions I've been a part of regarding the F-35, there seems to be an impression that Truax could close down if it doesn't get these jets. Can you confirm this?*

- A. The current fleet of F-16s assigned to Truax Field are approaching the end of their service life. Without a new aircraft assigned to carry out our mission, there would have been a possibility of Truax Field closing in the future. However, with the award of the new F-35s and after the successful completion of the EIS, obtaining the F-35A mission will secure our unit's future for many years to come.
- B. If Truax Field would not have been selected for the F-35As this round, we would have competed for the aircraft in the future. The Air Force and Air National Guard is currently programmed to purchase up to 1,763 aircraft between 2013-2035, as a result, the beddown process of the F-35 will be repeated approximately every two years.

Q-3: *I'm trying to understand potential changes to Truax Field's operation and function if the F-35 squadron arrives here. What changes do you anticipate needing in terms of base infrastructure? Any changes in terms of personnel needed, or the roles they serve? What other changes might there be that could impact the way the base affects the community (and specifically in terms of economic impact)?*

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- A. There will be different training and equipment requirements that come with the new F-35A aircraft. We anticipate some infrastructure changes, to include new construction and modifications to existing buildings. This construction will come from contracts with companies in the community, which will contribute to local economic growth.
- B. In terms of personnel changes, we anticipate that there will be minimal changes in the overall number of personnel, but many will receive additional training, and some may be assigned to new roles to complement the new aircraft. As to effects to the community, Truax Field will continue to contribute to the economy with the many support services that it provides, such as fire, rescue and emergency management services to Dane County Regional, explosive ordinance disposal to the surrounding areas, and urban, search and rescue support.

(I will also provide the media packet that we developed for the F-35 news conference that details our economic impact to the community.)

Q-5: *At a community meeting last week, I heard a number of local voices that expressed a concern about the weapons that the Truax F-35s will carry. I understand that there is no air-to-ground ordinance at Truax, is this true? Question answered below?*

- A. There is no air-to-ground ordinance at Truax Field. At this time, the ordinance that the F-16s currently fly and train with will be the same ordinance that the F-35s will fly and train with. As for nuclear payloads, there is no requirement for the F-35s to carry nuclear weapons.

Q-6: *I was interested in learning more about noise abatement procedures, as many neighbors were upset about the present noise of the F-16 flights. What procedures does Truax currently have in place to limit the noise effects on the community? Do you anticipate any change in the volume or frequency of aircraft noise with the F-35? I've heard mixed perspectives on the F-35 being louder and quieter than the F-16 – various sides citing differences in aircraft profile, afterburner usage, etc. Do you have any documentation that I could cite that gives some concrete reference to the two aircraft's comparative noise?*

- A. The EIS process will evaluate and present changes in noise levels at the airfield and in the training airspace. In addition, the EIS process will analyze DoD metrics to evaluate noise effects, such as the Day Night Average Sound Level (DNL) noise metrics, which is primarily used for noise generated at the airfield.

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- B. If mitigation is required, it can take the form of changing operational procedures or making improvements to structures that fall within certain noise levels. At this point in the process, it is unknown whether any mitigation would be required, and if so, what form that mitigation would take. Any mitigation required will be identified in the Final EIS

Q-7: Finally, I was hoping to give readers a better idea of the function of these F-35s. Where will they train in Wisconsin, and what sort of maneuvers/operations does this training consist of? Why Wisconsin? Also, in the active defense role, what is the responsibility of the Truax squadron?

- A. The role of the F-35s will be very similar to the current mission of the F-16's at Truax Field. The close proximity to such an outstanding training space is one of the reasons that Truax Field was chosen as a preferred alternative because it maximizes the investment from the taxpayer and allows us to conduct more training per flight. Additionally, Truax Field provides Aerospace Alert support to security to the Midwest region from threats in its airspace. The F-35s will continue to provide this security for many years to come.

(I will refer him to the media packet that details our missions.)