

My Turn

Further study needed

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I am a resident of Miami, N.M.; because of work obligations I have not been able to attend nearby community meetings scheduled for Las Vegas, Ratòn or Clayton.

It is crucial that a detailed environmental impact study be made regarding the Air Force's proposal; the cursory draft environmental assessment of "no significant impact" is insufficient to address vital concerns that many in our region share regarding the proposed flights.

Only a partial list of those concerns: the invasive and disturbing disruption of tranquility in a beautiful place which has always attracted potential residents and recreational visitors, health reasons relating to repeated loud noise resulting in stress and countless other negative effects, population shift and reduction in property values, and danger to animals, both livestock and wildlife.

Ample documented evidence shows the U.S. military is responsible for the most widespread pollution and degradation of the planet, and that the Pentagon is so huge and so lacking in financial controls that it can not even follow its own money (Government Accountability Office report).

It is revealing that the U.S. spends more on defense than the next 17 top-spending countries combined. The Commission on Wartime Contracting concluded that contract waste and fraud in Iraq and Afghanistan alone amounts to somewhere between \$30 and \$60 billion.

According to the GAO, the cost of an MV-22 is \$64 million and a CV-22 is \$76 million; operating costs are \$11,000 per flying hour; the total cost of the V-22 program from 1982-2008 equaled \$25.7 billion!

A further GAO finding: "Failure to re-examine the V-22 program at this point risks the expenditure of billions of dollars on an approach that may be less effective than alternatives. We maintain our recommendation for a new alternatives analysis."

Landon Young lives in Miami, N.M.