

PRESS CONTACT:

Sam Pfeifle

207-749-0298, [sam@westgraycreative.com](mailto:sam@westgraycreative.com)

## **Climate Activists to Protest Blue Angels Performance, Sept. 4**

“The climate crisis means we must reckon with the effects of militarism”

BRUNSWICK: Statewide peace and environmental groups will gather at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station, Sept. 4, to protest the performance being given by the Blue Angels and raise awareness of the massive carbon footprint created by the U.S. military and its contribution to the climate crisis.

“Military emissions have been exempt from climate accords for too long,” said scheduled speaker Lisa Savage, former candidate for U.S. Senate and founder of the group Maine Natural Guard. “The greatest security threat we face today is the rapidly accelerating climate crisis. Using polluting weapons of war for recruitment purposes is an outdated and deadly response. Past Blue Angels air shows have generated 200,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>. In Brunswick in 2012, the show burned napalm for entertainment.”

Speakers, protestors, and the IDEAL Band will gather on the Bath Road at the main gate of the former Brunswick Naval Air Station to share information and raise awareness of the existential threat posed by the planet’s continually rising temperature, the result of greenhouse gas emissions by human enterprise.

Luke Sekera-Flanders of Fryeburg, a recent high school graduate who organizes with Community Water Justice, will serve as master of ceremonies. “The United States military is one of the biggest polluters in the globe, ranking higher than around 140 countries in its carbon emissions,” he said. “While corporate media and mainstream ‘environmentalists’ insist that the solution to climate change lies with consumer choices and electing milquetoast reformers, the real culprits are left unburdened without any accountability.

“Imperialism is a costly affair in all respects,” Sekera-Flanders continued. “Financially, it detracts from what could be spent on healthcare, education, environmental protection and a variety of social services. Globally, it subjugates, traumatizes, exploits, and robs self determination from humans, for little more reason than political utility and economic gain for a handful of corporations.

“Environmentally, its drain on resources and massive pollution condemns future generations to a future of resource scarcity. We need to divest from the military industrial complex now, before it is too late,” Sekera-Flanders said.

Bruce Gagnon, a veteran who will speak as a representative of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, said, “It’s never been more important to protest these gas-guzzling and polluting airshows than now, as the public calls for immediate change to help us deal with the climate crisis, but Maine’s political leaders

remain mute about the impacts these wasteful military recruiting events have on the environment. It is shameful.”

Due to the rising rate of COVID infections in Maine, participants will be asked to mask and observe social distancing at the event.

Organizations sponsoring the event include [BanKillerDrones.com](https://bankillerdrones.com), PeaceWorks of Greater Brunswick, Pax Christi Maine, Peace Action Maine, Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, Maine Natural Guard, and Maine Veterans for Peace. More groups are joining the effort every day.

References:

[We Can't Fight the Climate Crisis Without Fighting the Military-Industrial Complex](#) (by Ariel Gold, *Jacobin*, August 13, 2021)

[Pentagon Fuel Use, Climate Change, and the Costs of War](#) (by Dr. Neta Crawford, Cost of War project, June 12, 2019)