



Update: June 25, 2019

Finally - Action by our Federal Elected Officials

Real-Time Noise Monitoring

For a long time it felt like our elected officials did not hear our concerns. They certainly haven't been taking any meaningful action.

That has changed!

Senator Maria Cantwell introduced an amendment to the National Defense Appropriations Act of 2020 that requires the Department of Defense to conduct real-time jet noise monitoring. Representative Larsen introduced parallel legislation in the House.

The Senate version -

- Requires real-time monitoring of noise from local flights of EA-18G Growlers associated with Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, including field carrier landing practice at Naval Outlying Field (OLF) Coupeville and Ault Field.
- Requires monitoring results to be made public on an Internet website of the Department of Defense;
- Requires the report on the noise monitoring to be submitted to Congress within 6 months;
- Requires the Secretary of Defense to work with the Director of the National Park Service and the Chief of the Forest Service to come up with a plan within 6 months for real-time noise monitoring of Growlers above or adjacent to Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest, and Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve.
- Authorizes \$1 million for the noise monitoring.

Why is Noise Measurement Important?

One of the key weaknesses we have pointed out in the Navy EIS is that their noise analysis is based on computer simulations, not actual noise measurements. They have been very opaque on the how the computer models work and where the data comes from.

With real-time measurements citizens will have a stronger basis to challenge the Navy decisions. Measurements will demonstrate that the Growlers are louder than the Navy has stated and the impact on people and the environment are much more harmful.

During the EIS process organizations presented credible noise measurements made by professional engineers. The Navy dismissed their findings. They will not be able ignore their own measurements.

How did this happen?

- Your persistence in contacting elected officials.
- Banding together organizations and individuals around the Salish Sea into the Sound Defense Alliance. SDA is a young organization that already has credibility with elected officials.

- Working with local officials such as our San Juan County Commissioners to deliver the message to State and Federal elected officials.

Rhea's Story

I was looking forward to my trip from the island to Port Townsend. It meant catching another ferry at Coupeville en route. I have heard my friends tell me about living next to the Outlying Field (OLF), and I knew how close it was to farms, homes, and school near Coupeville. I simply thought I would drive by OLF on my way, and see if the Growlers were flying. Before I could see the field, and even though I knew the jets might be flying, I was not prepared for what my body did to me in the car. All of a sudden I was blasted with sound, my stomach turned, and the adrenalin started pumping through my system. I was temporarily in shock. And then I saw it, through the windshield, just above my head.

I had to explain to my body that all was okay, but it did a number on my blood sugar. I thought I would stop at a convenient safe place to record this experience, anticipating the next flyover. Alas, the place I could safely pull over was being guarded by a police car. I wasn't up for all the questions that I knew would unfold if I stopped and filmed.

I cannot imagine what it is like for these residents of Ebey's National Historic Preserve to have these planes flying at night, during summer ball games, over homes and working farms. It is simply unconscionable, not just because of the noise, but for all the damage done to the human body by both the decibels and the vibrations, not to mention loss of sleep. These planes are not at thousands of feet above the ground. They are practicing take-offs and landings, never rising far off the ground. There is nothing about this behavior of the Navy that is neighborly. This is a war training zone in the heart of a "Mr. Rogers neighborhood."

Remember to report Growler noise.

sjcgis.org/aircraft-noise-reporting/

Thanks to each of you for continuing to file jet noise reports ! Please continue. One way to demonstrate impact is with DATA! We send the data analysis to elected officials every two months. You can see the reports at <https://www.quietskies.info/county-website-data-summaries>

Thank you for all you do! We depend on each other.

Please join the Sound Defense Alliance now.

If you have not done this already, please sign up to be a member of the Sound Defense Alliance.

<https://sounddefensealliance.org/take-action/join-us/>. Donations to the Sound Defense Alliance are greatly appreciated.