



MARCH 2025

Statement From the Navy

March 3, 2025

Runway Closures at Ault Field

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. -- Repairs to Runways 7/25 at Ault Field **are scheduled from early March until November 2025.**

During this closure aircraft will be takeoff and land using the remaining runways (Runway 14/32) heading either Northwest or Southeast. **This takeoff and landing approach will result in increased activity over** eastern Oak Harbor, northern Camano Island, Anacortes, La Conner and **Lopez Island.**

This sounds horrible. In San Juan County most of the impact will be on Lopez Island and the south part on San Juan Island.

What can we do?

- **Contact your elected officials. A list is [here](#)**

Report Jet Noise [here](#)

Jet Noise Reports

In 2019 the Navy added 36 more Growlers. That year we added collecting noise reports from outside San Juan County. From 2019 to 2022 noise reports increased almost 400%.



In 2024 the total number of reports were 60% lower than last year. Most of the reduction was outside San Juan County. It's rare, but in December there were more reports in SJC than outside the county.

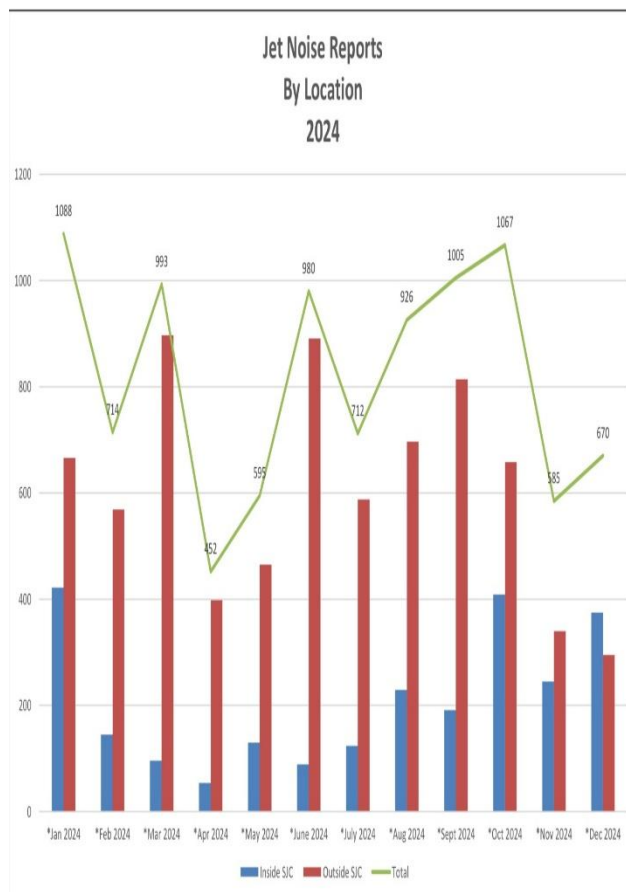
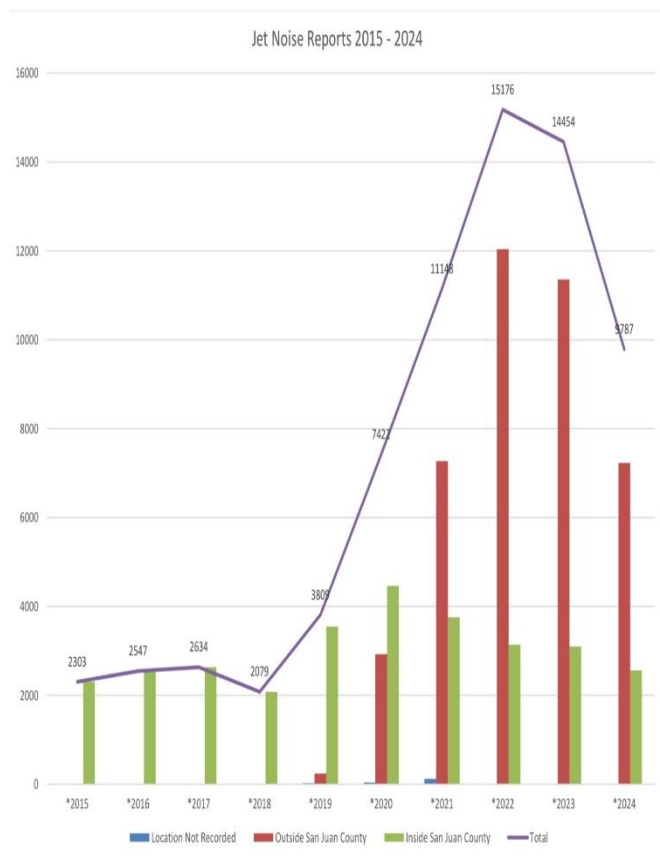
Six months in 2024 had about the same average of reports as in 2023. The other six months were lower. It could be that the Navy did fewer training months at Whidbey. That would be great.

The full 2024 Annual Jet Noise Report is [here](#). Included are charts, reporting comments and maps.

The bottom line is that Growlers continue to bombard noise over the Salish Sea.

Thank you for reporting Jet Noise.

You can report [here](#).



Noise: a public health problem

Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology 35, 1-2 (2025)

"Noise—defined as unwanted and/or harmful sound [1]—is an underappreciated environmental stressor. Reference to noise as “an annoyance” or “a nuisance” trivializes what is an increasingly serious public health problem.

Excessive noise from transportation, construction, outdoor power equipment, industrial machinery, leisure and entertainment venues, and other sources is harming not only the auditory health but also the non-auditory health of billions of people around the world [2].

Decades of studies show incontrovertibly that noise causes hearing damage. What is less well known is that chronic noise also causes and contributes to serious non-auditory health effects via the body’s stress response, including hypertension, cardiovascular disease, mental health problems, and cognitive and learning impairments [3,4,5].

The mechanisms by which noise damages auditory cells, the nervous system, and the cardiovascular system are increasingly clear and understood at the cellular and molecular levels.

The World Health Organization estimates at least 1 million healthy life-years are lost annually in Western Europe from traffic-related noise alone [6]. In the United States, the health of more than 100 million people is estimated to be at risk from noise [7].

As sustainable development policies facilitate increased urban density, these numbers will increase in the absence of effective mitigation measures. It is time that noise receives the attention it deserves to inform policies and protect public health.

This special issue of JESEE entitled *Noise: A Public Health Problem* highlights

the importance and prevalence of noise exposures ... resulting auditory health effects ... and non-auditory health effects ... impacts on vulnerable populations ... characteristics of noise beyond decibels ... societal, economic, and policy implications ... and the role of technology."

The issue is available [here](#).

Note that the University of Washington study "Population health implications of exposure to pervasive military aircraft noise pollution" is included. It can be found [here](#).



Quiet Skies is affiliated with
the Sound Defense Alliance

[Donate to Sound Defense Alliance](#) | [Engage with us on Facebook](#) | [Follow us on Instagram](#) | [Other Ways to be Involved](#)

Sound Defense Alliance
PO Box 373
Coupeville, WA 98239

<https://sounddefensealliance.org>