



Quietskies

Over San Juan County

Update: April 7, 2017

Greetings:

The letter at the bottom of this email was sent to a few of us from U.S. Representative Rick Larsen asking "what is most important to us".

This is a great opportunity to tell him to focus on the GROWLER MITIGATION - not in the future - NOW.

HERE'S SOME HISTORY: On December 16, 2014, Representative Larsen created a list of 6 possible mitigations, listed in the box. Only ONE, the Ault Field Schedule, has happened. Since 2014, San Juan County Growler noise and overflights have increased.

Since May 2014, 7,264 noise complaints have been reported on the San Juan County website. s.jcgis.org/aircraft-noise-reporting/

Monthly Noise Profiles sent to our legislators show increasing noise complaints. See them at <https://www.quietskies.info/county-website-data-summaries>

It's time for Representative Larsen to do more than write lists and say that "everything takes time". It's time for him to start standing up for the quality of life in San Juan County and the region surrounding the Naval Air Station on Whidbey Island.

The Navy is important and SO is restoring the PEACE AND QUIET in our homes. Being blanketed with Growler noise and overflights is not healthy. Most of us did not chose to live in a War Training Zone - but that is what is being imposed on this region.

We need vigorous representation, and a passionate regard for the exceptional qualities of these lands we call home - Lands that we treasure and which draw visitors from around the world.

Let Representative Larsen hear from you today. A NOTE, EMAIL OR BRIEF PHONE CALL ONLY TAKES A MOMENT. Tell him to make MITIGATION of GROWLER NOISE a priority. NOW! Not in 3 or 5 or 10 years. Ask to receive periodic updates from Larsen's office.

Sent out 12/16/2014 Letter from Representative Rick Larsen

1. **Reducing Noise Coming from Engine Testing** Engine tests on the ground at Ault Field can be heard from places on North Whidbey Island and across the water in the Southwest portions of the San Juan Islands. While some Navy facilities have specially designed hangars to muffle noise from these activities, NASWI does not. Senator Patty Murray and I recently asked the Navy to fund the construction of a 'hush house' at Ault Field. You can read our letter here: <http://1.usa.gov/1Ahu9vt>.
2. **Reducing Engine Noise** Ongoing research may produce attachments to Growler engines, called chevrons, that could muffle jet noise without sacrificing engine performance. I have been tracking the development of this technology and will be monitoring the results of the first flight testing, which will take place in 2015.
3. **Reducing Future Flights** Navy engineers are currently developing a software package for the Growler that could improve pilot safety and reduce the amount of training pilots would need before deploying to a carrier. While it is still several years from being operational, my staff and I have received multiple briefings on the process and will continue to monitor its development.
4. **Expanded Sound Monitoring** The Navy is conducting noise measurements on Whidbey Island as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. Jet noise affecting residents on the San Juan Islands is not being measured in the newly expanded EIS. I will work with the Navy to see if it is possible to conduct sound measurements in the islands to be considered in the EIS.
5. **Growler Schedule for Ault Field** NASWI currently publishes a weekly schedule of Growler Field Carrier Landing Practices (FCLPs) at Outlying Field Coupeville. At a recent local meeting, community members suggested that the Navy also publish a schedule for FCLP at Ault Field to try to give people affected by jet noise from Ault Field this same advanced notice. I have shared this recommendation with the Navy and will let the community know about any decisions made regarding this proposal.
6. **Improved Use of Data** Residents on the San Juan Islands experience jet noise, and officials from San Juan County have proactively addressed citizens' concerns by setting up a database for people to report noise. This database will be a valuable resource for the Navy, and I am working to facilitate communication between the community and the Navy to ensure data are collected in a way that is maximally useful to all parties.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LARSEN IS BELOW:

EMAIL: rick.larsen@mail.house.gov

PHONE, DC: (202) 225-2605

PHONE, Everett: (425) 252-3188

MAIL: Representative Rick Larsen

2133 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington DC 20515

LARSEN'S LETTER:

April 4, 2017

Dear Neighbor:

With the 115th Congress underway, I want to hear which issues are most important to you. Let me know by selecting from the list below:

- Agriculture
- Defense
- Economy & Jobs
- Education
- Environment
- Financial regulations
- Health Care
- Immigration
- Seniors
- Small business
- Social Services
- Transportation and Infrastructure
- Veterans
- Voting Rights
- Women's Issues
- Other

By clicking submit, you are agreeing to receive periodic updates from my office.

Sincerely,

Rick Larsen

United States Representative

Washington State, 2nd Congressional District

1. To date the San Juan County Jet Noise Reporting site has 7,194 Growler noise reports since May 2014. These noise reports are helpful. For tips on how to submit jet noise reports go to: <https://www.quietskies.info/access-the-county-report-site>
2. We know that the Growlers are flying further and further North into San Juan County.
3. They are often sighted flying "gear down" which adds to the noise.
4. The Navy expects a 47 percent increase in noise when (if) they add the additional 36 Growlers they requested in the Environmental Impact Statement.
5. We learned during the Draft EIS process that the Navy is using outdated Noise modeling software which is legally questionable.
6. We have just received a copy of an Environmental Protection Agency letter written to the Navy stating that "the DEIS does not contain sufficient information to fully assess the environmental impacts that should be avoided to fully protect the environment and nearby communities". You can find this letter on our website at <https://www.quietskies.info/eis-process-2016-17>
7. The Navy expansion is creating a WAR TRAINING ZONE OVER OUR REGION which includes the Pacific Coast beaches and Bird Refuges, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, The Olympic Peninsula, Olympic National Park, Port Angeles, Port Townsend, Puget Sound, The Salish Sea, The San Juan Islands, San Juan Islands National Monument, The Skagit Valley and the North Cascades. They are doing this with the blessing of Representative Larsen and Senators Murray and Cantwell.
8. Operations in the War Training Zone include the Growler Noise we receive in San Juan County, and Growler noise impacts on the Pacific Coast, the Olympic Peninsula, Whidbey Island, the Skagit Valley and the North Cascades.
9. NAVY IMPACTS GO BEYOND NOISE. Other Navy operation in our Region include use of live explosives which the Navy estimates will maim or kill hundreds of thousands of marine mammals.
10. Part of the Navy's job in our region is teaching personnel to destroy targets by explosive or weaponized electronic means. It is estimated that the Navy has left roughly 27 tons of explosives on the sea bottom and over the last 60 years and will add up to 9 tons of dangerous explosive materials in our waters every 20 years. Navy documents show that as much as 34 tons of depleted uranium could be present on the seabed just 12 miles from the outer coast of Washington State. Not so good for our waters which we are trying to clean up!
11. New Navy training areas will include the testing of undersea systems in Puget Sound, testing activities in the Carr Inlet between Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor Peninsula, and pier-side sonar maintenance and testing. The US Navy's war gaming will increase in our Pacific Northwest waters, with bullets, bombs, missiles, chaff, flares, drones, sonobuoys and expendable targets, many containing harmful chemicals such as ammonium perchlorate, picric acid, nitrobenzene, lithium from sonobuoy batteries, lead, manganese, phosphorus, sulfur, copper, nickel, tungsten, chromium, molybdenum, vanadium, trinitrotoluene (TNT), RDX [Royal Demolition eXplosive] and HMX [High Melting eXplosive], among many others.

PROBABLY MORE THAT YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW!

If you do contact to Representative Larsen and other elected officials, these are a few things to talk about. . . including what they are doing about ANY of them. Click here for contact information:

<https://www.quietskies.info/contacts>

COUNTY WEBSITE NOISE REPORTS: Keep them coming!!! They are sent monthly to legislators and the Navy. This is a significant way to stand up and be heard. For tips on how to do this, go to: <http://www.quietskies.info/access-the-county-report-site>

The latest data on the Jet Noise reports can be found at <http://www.quietskies.info/county-website-data-summaries>

The graphs help us understand what's going on and the comments capture the real story that we are all living through.

DAHR JAMAIL'S LATEST STORY on Navy Noise in our Region.

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/39247-how-much-noise-can-a-person-survive-navy-jets-plague-the-lives-of-washington-residents>

Thanks to each one of you.