



**Update: July 25, 2019**

## **What Quiet Skies is Asking For**

- ✚ Alternative locations for Growler training.
- ✚ Real-time noise monitoring – not averages.
- ✚ A health study of people living under the Growler noise.
- ✚ Don't trade money for noise mitigation.
- ✚ Electromagnetic Radiation training out of the Olympic parks.
- ✚ Protection of Endangered Species.

We support the Attorney General's lawsuit against the Navy to protect our health, our environment and to follow the law. <https://www.atg.wa.gov/news/news-releases/ag-ferguson-sues-navy-over-impact-expanded-growler-jet-operations>

There is no way that people can live with 24,000 training operations a year.

We won't be collateral damage for their warfare and training mission over the heads of children and families.

### **LOCAL IMPACT:**

- ❖ 288% increase in operations at Outlying Field Coupeville (OLF)
- ❖ 36 more E/A-18G Growlers to NASWI – 82 to 118 jets
- ❖ 95% of active Growlers based at NASWI
- ❖ 42% increase in all landing practices
- ❖ 25% increase in all Growler operations
- ❖ 6% decrease in operations at Oak Harbor

### **Letter From a Veteran**

Editor,

I fear for the safety of my family. I am a 1964 Naval Academy graduate. I received my wings in 1965, flew 3,500 hours in A-Ds, F-9s and A-4s. I left the Navy in 1971. I received the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1967.

My wife and I have been staunch Navy supporters for 55 years. We moved to Whidbey Island in 2006. Our Realtor told us our home was three miles from OLF Coupeville and we would have A-6 Prowlers flying near our home. We said great. It was for us, "The Sound of Freedom."

It is not my place to refute the decision to move all EA-18G's in the Navy to Whidbey Island. However, I do refute the decision to schedule 20,000 aircraft passes per year, infinitum, at the OLF, when 6,000 per year was the standard.

No one remotely near OLF should be subject to the unprecedented, horrific roar of the twin jet engines of the EA-18G, night and day, every day. The sheer number of EA-18Gs operating at Coupeville — north at low altitudes, at night, with inexperienced pilots — is an accident waiting to happen.

The pros fly to the OLF from a quarter mile out over the Admiralty Inlet at 800 feet with engines at cruise power, noise lessened by distance. They fly a straight line to the OLF with minimal track over homes. Their FCLP's are tight; when they depart there is little fanfare.

My concern comes from being a witness to the far different approaches and patterns flown by the inexperienced pilots. Fast jets appear from the south, over land, 600 feet AGL, ripping the sky, blasting through and then gone. That's their approach to OLF.

Soon, thereafter, we see them in overloaded patterns, in left turns, 600 feet AGL, three miles out from the OLF. This places the jets directly over our home — read neighborhood.

All it takes is getting too low and hitting a tree, an engine flame-out, bird strike, midair collision, et al: any one of these could be the event that kills me and my family. It is not out of the realm of possibility.

Some will read this, take a cheap shot and say "your fault you bought there." They will have to make that same comment to all the families of Coupeville, Greenbank and Crockett Lake.

Navy, please reconsider your decision. Cut back the massive onslaught of jets at OLF. Keep us safe. This island is home for many, not just a convenient place for you to train our young aviators.

Newell G. Davis, Coupeville

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## **Letter From Langley**

You probably wondered, as I did, if the Navy could be meaningfully challenged on its Grower expansion plan. What could a small group of citizens, working on their own time and with whatever resources they could muster, do to oppose Goliath? But they, and a few early donors/believers, kept on keeping on, spending the precious moments of their lives battling one of the biggest giants around. They had faith, determination, organization. Some were reviled in their own communities for going against the status quo. Few around them thought they could win against the Department of Defense. Still, they defied expectations and built a movement that coalesced and strategized and collaborated...until it crystalized last week at a press conference at the office of the Washington state attorney general.

Treat yourself to thirty minutes of art: the art of battling giants. Be inspired by this art the way you're inspired by a painting, a sculpture, a tree, a landscape. Be heartened. This is the people's art, and to make it has demanded sacrifices from our friends and neighbors on Whidbey, on the Olympic Peninsula, across the San Juan Islands. To make it has required people willing to defend Puget Sound, the Salish Sea, and our right to clean waters, quiet skies, and a natural world that contains wildlife. To make it has required

defending the choice to earn a living as farmers, artisans, shopkeepers. To make it has required unshakeable faith in the rule of law combined with deep love for our homeland.

If you are elated, if you are inspired, consider becoming a collaborating artist in this work. Volunteer. Donate. Support the legal costs of the citizens' lawsuit. Chip in to fund the expansion of the alliance.

If you are moved the way I am moved by watching this video of faith made manifest here, visit the Sound Defense Alliance and/or Citizens of Ebey's Reserve websites.

I hope you will, now that you've beheld the art that we, the people, can together make.

Dianna MacLeod, Langley, Washington

## Restore the Balance

### **Remember to report Growler noise.**

[sjcgis.org/aircraft-noise-reporting/](http://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.