

BROCK ADAMS
WASHINGTON

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 12, 1989

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Anderson
16 E. Frostad Road
Oak Harbor, Washington 98277

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Anderson:

Thank you for contacting my office to express your concerns about flight training at Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island. I share your concern about flight training noise and its effect upon residents in the area.

As you know, the dispute between the Navy and residents affected by the noise from low-level overflights has been an issue of concern for some time. On the one hand, the Navy must train its pilots for combat operations. In order to reach that goal they have dramatically increased the number of Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP) operations at OLF Coupeville and Ault Field. On the other hand, the increase in low level flights, and the number of flights that veer away from established flight pathways, have disturbed many residents in the Coupeville area. Unfortunately, it appears that efforts by the Navy to lessen the impact on Coupeville residents by routing flights over Guemes Island have merely stirred up opposition in a new geographic area.

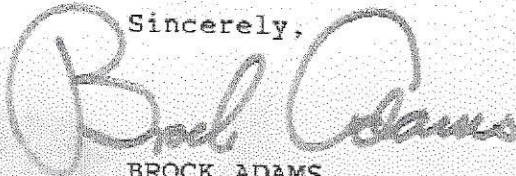
While I understand the Navy's need to train its pilots and support the Navy's presence on Whidbey Island, I believe that the Navy must work with residents in the area to reach a workable solution to the noise problem. Last year, I encouraged the Navy to work with the local community. I am pleased that representatives from the Navy have held public meetings on this issue to listen to community concerns.

I am also pleased that the Navy is conducting an Environmental Impact study to examine the conduct and options for air operations at the Naval Air Station. The EIS will help the Navy plan for the long term capability of Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island to effectively train carrier crews while integrating the environmental concerns of the public.

I will continue to encourage the Navy to work with Whidbey and Guemes Island residents, and I will follow the EIS process closely. It is my hope that a workable solution can be reached that is satisfactory to all affected parties and I will work to bring this about.

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Thank you again for expressing your views. If you have additional comments or questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

BROCK ADAMS
United States Senator

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