

FRESH AND SALTWATER SPORTS
ON CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY



HOME OF
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE

CITY OF VALPARAISO
465 VALPARAISO PARKWAY • (850) 729-5402
VALPARAISO, FLORIDA 32580

March 4, 2009

Ms. Alexis Tibbets, Superintendent
Okaloosa County Schools
120 Lowery Place, S.E.
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548-5595

Dear Ms. Tibbets

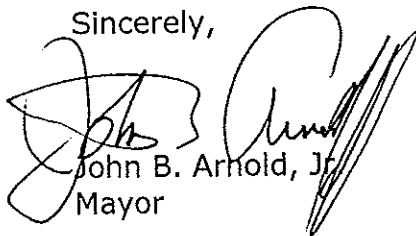
On February 5, 2009, the Air Force released its Record of Decision (ROD) on the Implementation of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC 2005) Decisions for the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Initial Joint Training Site (IJTS) Eglin AFB, Florida. On page 17, the ROD addresses unavoidable impacts.

Specifically, the second bullet states "Noise from flight training operations in the MTRs, MOAs, and Eglin Main, Duke Field, and Choctaw Field will have the potential to have a disproportionate adverse impact on affected minority and low-income populations. These flight operations will also have the potential to present a special risk to children as there are several schools and day care facilities that will be affected by these noise levels". A copy of page 17 is enclosed for your review.

Residents of Valparaiso have expressed their concerns about Valparaiso Elementary and Lewis Middle School, which will be negatively impacted by the JSF, potentially being closed. Has the Okaloosa County School Board taken a position on this issue? If so, what is that position, and how does the Board plan to mitigate the negative impacts?

If Valparaiso can be of any assistance to the School Board in addressing this issue, we will be glad to assist. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,


John B. Arnold, Jr.
Mayor

Enclosure

"Home of the World's Largest Air Force Installation; Eglin Air Force Base, Florida"

Record of Decision
Implementation of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Decisions for the Joint
Strike Fighter (JSF) Initial Joint Training Site (IJTS)
Eglin AFB, Florida

Biological Resources (JSF Flight Training Alternatives)

- The Air Force will restrict low-level aircraft flights within 1,000 feet of the eagle nest on Eglin Main Base during the breeding season (1 October to 15 May).
- Develop wildfire operational plans with Eglin's Natural Resources Section to identify high wildfire risk conditions and notification procedures that units will follow to engage fire response personnel when needed.
- Follow Eglin's Wildfire Specific Action Guide Restrictions.

UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

Some of the BRAC 2005 activities are projected to result in disturbance and/or noise within areas not previously or recently subject to these effects. To the extent possible, mitigation measures, such as those identified in Section 2.10.2, will be applied to reduce potential effects to acceptable levels. However, some impacts that cannot be mitigated will occur. Some of these impacts will be considered adverse or annoying to individuals potentially affected. Potential impacts that could occur and cannot be mitigated include the following:

- Receptors (people, animals, and structures) in neighboring communities and beneath special use airspace will experience louder and more frequent overflights than they have in the past. This increase in frequency and intensity of noise is expected to lead to increased annoyance. [As written previously, this said nothing about noise over Val-P.]
- Noise from flight training operations in the MTRs, MOAs, and Eglin Main, Duke Field, and Choctaw Field will have the potential to have a disproportionate adverse impact on affected minority and low-income populations. These flight operations will also have the potential to present a special risk to children as there are several schools and day care facilities that will be affected by these noise levels.
- The number of high-explosives munitions noise events will increase. [Just re-ordered the bullets so that the two noise bullets are adjacent.]
- The existing capacity of regional landfills will be reduced due to the solid waste generated.
- Hazardous and nonhazardous waste will be generated as a result of maintenance functions associated with new training units on the base.
- Munitions fragments and metallic residues will be generated and deposited on the Range as a result of training missions.
- The ability to conduct prescribed burns will decrease, resulting in habitat degradation.
- Land clearing will result in a very small reduction in forested areas.
- Individual species will be affected by land clearing, construction, daily cantonment operations, ground operations, air operations, water operations, munitions use, and pyrotechnics use.
- Stormwater runoff and associated erosion will increase due to construction.
- A number of roadway segments will deteriorate further.