

F-35 noise a concern for Hill AFB neighbors

Wednesday, October 22, 2008

LAYTON -- The F-35 is coming to Hill Air Force Base, but how noisy will it be when it arrives?

Residents of the communities surrounding Hill Air Force Base have lived with F-16 noise since the early 80s, but officials say its eventual replacement's engine will blast even louder.

Earlier this month, the Air Force announced locations of depot repair workloads for the F-35, identifying Hill as a main player.

The decision to bring the new fighter to Hill designates the Ogden Air Logistics Center as a primary source for working on the F-35's airframe, associated doors, panels, covers and control surfaces. The airframe maintenance will likely be up and running by 2012.

Kathleen Ferguson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, said the noise level associated with the F-35 Lightning II, also known as the Joint Strike Fighter, is "significant" and has prompted public concerns about the noise and overall environmental impacts of the aircraft.

"The Air Force is committed to being a good neighbor (to the surrounding communities) of the future installations selected for F-35 basing. We are diligently exploring methods to mitigate the impact," she said. "Our airmen and their families live and work within these same communities and neighborhoods and are equally affected."

In addition to maintenance duties, Hill is also in the running to host a wing of F-35 jets. Lt. Beth Woodward, 388th Fighter Wing spokeswoman, said the Air Force will likely announce operational locations that will undergo an environmental analysis during the next few weeks.

Reader Comments

By: T. Miller @ 05/06/2009, 5:29 PM

After 45 years of living under the approach end of a fighter base's runway, there is never an aircraft that passes that I don't go out of my way to look up and watch. It is like music to my ears. Some people like music, I like the roar of jet engines.

By: Eglin Area Resident @ 11/12/2008, 9:53 PM

FYI: Read Eglin AFB's Final Environmental Impact Statement for their upcoming F-35 operations (link found on Eglin's website). Pay particular attention to the Appendix. Here you will see that the community located near Eglin will experience the following from daily F-35 operations: 106 afterburner takeoffs from 7 AM to 10 PM (that's about one every 8.5 minutes). Each of these events will result in an ear shattering roar of up to 122 decibels! It's going to be so intense that the EPA is on record with significant concerns with these operations.

Good Luck finding earplugs to protect your quality of life from this baby...

By: annoyed @ 10/22/2008, 11:01 PM

I don't mind the jets so much during the day, but when they're flying at 10:30 pm and 2-3 am, it's gets to be a bit much, even for an insomniac like myself.

By: missmoo05 @ 10/22/2008, 10:08 PM

I would be Glad to have the F-35 here at Hill. The sounds of the Jet engines are a reminder of what my tax dollars are doing for my country. Plus when your loved ones are at war the Air Force is what saves them, when troops can't get to there position.

By: Chainlink @ 10/22/2008, 7:40 PM

They fly over my house every day and I thank God they do. If it bothers you that much one word, move.

By: Mississippi @ 10/22/2008, 6:54 PM

veteranamr,

I would be honored to have Hill field move to MS.

Remember that Hill field has been in Utah longer than either of us has been alive. When IDIOTS like you move there and then complain about the noise, the only thing I have to say is GET A LIFE. Or invest in ear plugs.

Let Freedom ring forever!!By: veteranamr @ 10/22/2008, 5:47 PM

Its very obvious that you really have no idea what your talking about which is par for the coarse. You cannot really be that nieve. Ballparks, I15, the 4th of July do not hold the volume of noise that those plane create. My Lord, what an idiot you are to even consider it. It is really too bad that you don't have those planes over your house. I really wish that you did. Your the kind of person that deserves it.

By: **Mississippi** @ 10/22/2008, 5:22 PM

veteranamr,

If we go with your thinking, why don't you first shut down Hill, then I-15, then the local ball park, forget having a 4th of July and by all means shot your neighbors dog.

I for one miss the sounds of jets flihing over my house, the closest thing I have to that now is a crop duster.

Let freedom ring forever!

By: **veteranamr** @ 10/22/2008, 4:33 PM

I spent twenty years in the military and grew up in the air force, in fact, I was born on this base. Now you people call this noise the sound of freedom, I honestly do not think you know what the sound of freedom is. The sound of freedom is noiseless, there is no sound at all. Freedom is not a noise, it is an idea, a thing within a thing, it's a way of life. Yes, these planes add a great deal of money to the economy but not at the expense of the public. What about those people's freedom's do we just throw them away? Quit thinking about yourselves and think of the bigger picture. These people have every right to have a normal life like everyone else and if the noise in an intruder, then something has to be done about it.

By: **Philip** @ 10/22/2008, 3:48 PM

Ditto all the other comments plus... I am sure most residents will not be able to tell the difference between the noise of an F35 and the F16

By: **AL** @ 10/22/2008, 3:08 PM

I can't wait for the noise, bring it on! The f-16's rumble my building just on the south side of the runway!!! It reminds me that I'm free!

By: **dkm1469** @ 10/22/2008, 2:50 PM

I don't want to hear it. It isn't like the realtor tried to hide the big AFB when they bought their home. Deal with it.

By: **Shawn** @ 10/22/2008, 2:23 PM

I welcome the noise. Yeah, they can be loud but you get used to it and it's not like it's non-stop day and night. And like they say, it's the sound of freedom.

By: **kurly** @ 10/22/2008, 2:21 PM

Come on the base adds billions to the economy, for that I can put up with some noise ... after all i was a former jet engine mechanic.