

Last year I moved from Parker Colorado to Aurora Colorado to obtain some relief from aircraft noise. I hear that proposed changes in flight paths could direct traffic directly over where I currently reside. I currently rent which should make it easier to relocate as noise increases. But where? The entire area experiences noise from Buckley and DIA.

I have had a considerable experience with the noise complaint department at Centennial when I lived in Parker. It was the a complete waste of time and energy. Here is a transcript of a letter I actually sent to Congressman Tom Tancredo. Incidentally, he passed the buck to the FAA who then wrote me saying basically tough luck.

Larry Wilson
Aurora Colorado

I am writing to express my concerns regarding noise complaints that I began filing with Centennial Airport in November 2005 due to the high frequency and excessive loudness of propeller driven airplanes. After I started working night shift and was trying to sleep during the day, I logged many complaints daily. Some days I filed as many as 125 complaints. I live two miles from the airport and numerous airplanes fly directly over my home on departure and landings. Some airplanes fly over at very low altitudes.

I was contacted in December 2005 by Tracy Wright, Noise Specialist/Administrative Assistant at Centennial airport about installing a noise monitor on my property. I agreed and the noise monitor was installed on January 30 through February 6. It was re-installed February 12 through February 15 because it failed during the initial installation. I was asked to meet with their director, Robert Olislagers, to go over the results of the noise monitor compared to the complaints I logged during the time the monitor was installed. We met on March 31, 2006.

The meeting with Robert Olislagers started with him saying that I was an "anomaly of anomalies." I guess his comment was in response to the large number of complaints I filed. He then indicated that there could not be that many airplanes flying over my house. He suggested that they may be motorcycles or other noise. I think I know the difference between airplane and motorcycle noise. He showed me a spreadsheet with the results of the noise monitor and my complaints. It indicated that the average noise was 49dB which he said, "equated to the background noise of a forest." I have never lived in a forest so I cannot relate to his statement. The spreadsheet showed a number of correlations above 60dB. When I asked him to explain these correlations he steered the conversation to the psychology of noise, noise levels of roads, and how sensitive he, himself, was to noise. When I asked him again about the spreadsheet correlations above 60dB, he steered the conversation away again. I pointed out that he had never spoke to the spreadsheet correlations above 60dB. He finally said that considering the number of airplane operations, the number of high noise incidents was normal. In other words, there were excessive noise events but there is nothing he was going to do about it. I asked if he knew who the persons/airplanes were on the spreadsheet that were over the 60dB level, and he said they would have to obtain radar tracks from Denver International Airport to find out. I asked if he had a log of who takes off and lands, and he answered, "No." It seems strange to me that they do not know who is coming and going especially in this time of terrorist activity and Homeland Security concerns.

The data in the spreadsheet is shown below.

Aircraft Operations that exceeded 60dB

Date	# of Complaints over 70dB	A/C Reported over 60dB	A/C Reported over 65dB	A/C Reported
2/10/2006	8	2	0	0
2/11/2006	30	0	7	0
2/12/2006	95	0	4	1
2/13/2006	38	0	3	1
2/14/2006	19	0	1	1
2/15/2006	33	0	2	2
Total	223	2	17	5

These measurements provided by the airport clearly indicate that a number of aircraft operations have noise levels above 60dB. I do not know the difference between a 50, 60, or 70dB noise. To me, they are all noise. They interrupt conversation, television, telephone conversations, and reading. I have become extremely sensitive due to the extreme number of airplanes flying over.

Based on the spreadsheet, the percentage of noise level operations over 60dB per complaints are:

2/10 - 25%
2/11 - 23%
2/12 - 5%
2/13 - 11%
2/14 - 11%
2/15 - 12%

I was told that I should not be experiencing noise levels above 60dB based on my proximity to the airport. Clearly this is not the case, and nothing is being done to remedy the situation.

The airport did investigate one of my complaints of an airplane flying over at extremely low altitude. I was advised that once an airplane leaves the ground they have no control over where it flies. There are minimum altitude regulations, but they do not apply if the airplane is performing takeoff or approach flight plans. I fear that someday, due to the large number of flight operations, an airplane will crash on my home or somewhere nearby.

I believe Centennial Airport has received Federal grant money for their Part 150 Noise Land Use study. I hope that none of our tax dollars are being used to support the noise department because I believe they do not offer any remedies, and I believe this would be a serious conflict of interest. As in my case, they simply discourage further complaints. Robert Olislagers is only looking out for the airport business.

I think that the airport is also seeking Federal grant money to install permanent noise monitors. I think this would be a waste of money since they appear to provide no value.

I actually thought that my complaints would be taken seriously and something might be done to better my quality of life but I was mistaken. Some day, I will move since this will be my only remedy for the situation. I live in Douglas County and when I purchased the home there was no emphasis on an airport problem. I believe that the increasing noise due to increasing airplane operations will have an affect on my property values and may make it harder to sell in the future. Arapahoe County has a Centennial Airport influence area where particular attention and notice is taken to airport noise. No such program exists in Douglas County.

Recently, I have been experiencing airplane noise as early as 3:30 a.m., waking up me, my wife, and our guests. This trend seemed to start about one month ago and now appears to be a regular occurrence.

I have had a bad experience going directly to the source of the problem. I am writing to you for help in alleviating the problem.

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