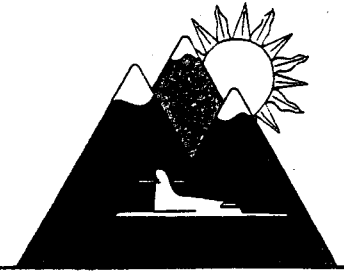


# Friedman Memorial Airport

Serving the Wood River Valley, Idaho  
P.O. Box 929 • Hailey, Idaho 83333  
(208) 788-4956 • FAX (208) 788-9852



July 11, 1996

President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I represent Friedman Memorial Airport Authority as the Airport Emergency Services/Airfield Operations Chief. Friedman Memorial Airport is located in Hailey, Idaho and services the Sun Valley resort area.

Our airport is somewhat unique insofar as it lies within the city limits of Hailey and finds itself with the ever-challenging role of striving to be a "good neighbor" to the community. Specifically, the airport attempts to minimize the negative impacts on the community generated by noise and overflight by encouraging use of published voluntary noise abatement procedures.

Recently (June 28-30, 1996), Sun Valley resort hosted the American Academy of Excellence. Notable among the attendees were two members of your administration; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

We appreciate the flight planning staff responsible for the Chairman's travel contacting us ahead of time to make us aware. More importantly, when we advised the staff that a June 29, 1996 0130 departure would seriously compromise our voluntary noise abatement procedures and negatively impact the neighboring residents, the staff rescheduled the General's departure to June 29, 1996 2245, a time that falls inside the 0600-2300 window we request aircraft to operate in. For this consideration we are grateful and commend the personnel of VR-56.

The crew operating the aircraft carrying the Commandant advised us that they were scheduled to depart on June 29, 1996 at 2100. This departure time also was good for us. Unfortunately, it was not the time that the Commandant actually departed. In fact, the Commandant departed approximately 0800 on June 29, 1996, a Sunday morning. The timing of this departure was inconsequential. The direction of departure was of tremendous consequence.

Typically, aircraft depart this airport to the south which takes them over primarily agricultural areas and accommodates the noise generated by a significantly large jet aircraft departure. Periodically, winds out the north constitute tailwinds that make it legally impossible for aircraft to depart south, due to published aircraft performance criteria. In this situation, the aircraft commander has two choices; depart the aircraft in a northerly direction over the community of

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Hailey or delay departure until more favorable winds accommodate a departure south. Usually, the winds in this area recede by 10:00 a.m. Regrettably, the decision was made to depart immediately, to the north, over the community of Hailey at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. You can imagine, Sir, the anger and resentment this action caused in the community. Our office received many phone calls from irate citizens who could not understand the callous disregard this operation represented. The event put the airport in an adverse position with the community. The event also gave cause to question the willingness of the federal government and its representatives to consider the welfare of its citizens.

Enclosed please find a copy of the Friedman Memorial Airport Voluntary Noise Abatement Procedures for your review. A personal response from yourself that we could share with the Friedman Memorial Airport Authority Board of Directors as well as the citizens in our community would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,



Peter R. Kramer  
Emergency Services/Airfield Operations Chief

P.S. Airport Improvement Program funding is vital to the continued evolution maintenance and viability of small airports such as ours. Please don't allow this very important program to be further diminished. Thanks.

Enclosure

PK:le



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
  
Federal Aviation  
Administration

800 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20591



AUG 20 1993

Mr. Peter R. Kramer  
Emergency Services Airfield  
Operations Chief  
Friedman Memorial Airport  
Hailey, ID 83333

Dear Mr. Kramer:

President Clinton has asked me to respond to your letter expressing concern about the Federal government's support of voluntary airport noise abatement flight procedures. Specifically, you reported that the U.S. Marine Corps Commandant's June 29 northerly departure from the Friedman Memorial Airport over the community of Hailey generated a number of noise complaints.

It was unfortunate that the Marine Corps Commandant had to depart earlier than scheduled, at a time when winds made it impossible to depart to the south over agricultural areas. On behalf of the Federal government, please accept our regrets that citizens north of the airport were disturbed by this departure. I am sure that you and the people of Hailey understand that aircraft must first and foremost be operated safely and that safety criteria dictated a northerly departure at that time.

Your letter was also highly complimentary of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who was able to reschedule his departure to be consistent with the airport's noise abatement program. I think this is evidence of the Federal government's support for local voluntary airport noise abatement procedures. Both the Department of Transportation/Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Defense invest substantial resources to reduce aviation noise impacts because it is of such importance to those who live in the vicinity of airports.

Thank you for the words of support on Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding. We share your judgment that AIP is a vital resource for airports such as the Friedman Memorial Airport.

Sincerely,

*Paul L. Galis*

for: Susan L. Kurland  
Associate Administrator  
for Airports

cc: Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps  
Headquarters Marine Corps  
2 Navy Annex  
Washington, DC 20380-1775

