

4 March 2022

US Air Force
Arizona Regional Airspace EIS
501 Butler Farm Road, Suite H
Hampton VA 23666

Subject: My opposition to the Tombstone MOA proposal for expanded military training over the Chiricahua - Peloncillo - Animas region

To Whom It May Concern:

Although my family and I support the military generally—my father and uncles fought in WWII; cousins and close friends fought in Vietnam; and my great-great uncle Kenzie Walker was even Quartermaster General for Europe during WWI—I am very strongly opposed to expanded military training in this region of profound biological values.

Those values are not only globally recognized and important in themselves, but also provide the foundation for our local economy, thanks to the tourism they generate—a tourism industry worth millions of dollars annually for the region.

As a single example of the folly of your proposal, every year 25,000+ Sandhill Cranes migrate here to winter near Willcox, Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area, Animas, and nearby areas. While here, they fly daily between feeding and roosting areas. These flocks of very large birds fly and migrate at elevations similar to those proposed for your training runs, and constitute a serious flight-strike hazard for at least 6 months of the year. Sandhill Cranes are also vital to the economy of Willcox and are the *raison d'être* for their annual Wings Over Willcox festival.

The flares you propose to drop are unconscionable in a region as fire-prone as ours. One of the speakers you sent to the Animas meeting on February 24 (which I attended) declared that flares do not start fires—an assertion that was either an outright lie or the depth of pollyanna ignorance. Of course they start fires; that has been documented. During my three decades of living in this region, I have twice had to evacuate my home due to human-caused fire, and have been warned on other occasions that evacuation might be necessary.

Flares are also a source of serious chemical contamination and poisoning. Curious people, handling flares that had failed to explode before the handling, have been critically injured.

Portal Rescue provides our EMT and other services. Helicopters regularly have to medivac patients from here to hospitals. Your MOA threatens this helicopter service.

The ONLY alternative I support is #1—No Action.

Thank you,

Narca Moore
Portal AZ