

The image shows two F-16 fighter jets flying in formation over a rugged, rocky terrain. The jets are dark grey with white markings on their tails, including the letters 'SA' and the numbers '7205' and '7344'. They are leaving long, white smoke trails behind them. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall scene is one of military power and aerial maneuvering.

Save Our Peaceful Skies!

THE TIME IS NOW

peacefulchiricahuaskies.com



TWO CRITICAL MESSAGES TO USAF

- 1. Restrict all low-level combat training activities to Barry M. Goldwater Range where they are already happening**
- 1. Stop violating current boundaries and regulations for Combat Training Flights in Tombstone MOA**

MOA HISTORY and CURRENT STATUS

Tombstone MOA created in 1976....

Population is 70% bigger today

Economy is far advanced today

Protected Areas Have Increased in size

EFFECTIVE LOCAL RESPONSE

More than 200 Nuisance Flight Reports filed by area residents since USAF Announced its Combat Flight Training Expansion Plan.

WHY MORE NUISANCE REPORTS?

- **MORE PEOPLE AFFECTED**
- **MORE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY DEPENDS ON QUIET**
- **MORE VIOLATIONS OF CURRENT MOA REGULATIONS**

USAF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

More than DOUBLE the current number of Combat Training Flights—to 8,000/yr. (moved from Barry Goldwater Range to Tombstone MOA)

Combat Training Flights over Portal/Rodeo/Animas (Boundary Expanded)

Combat Training Flights at 100 feet AGL (down from 500 ft. AGL)

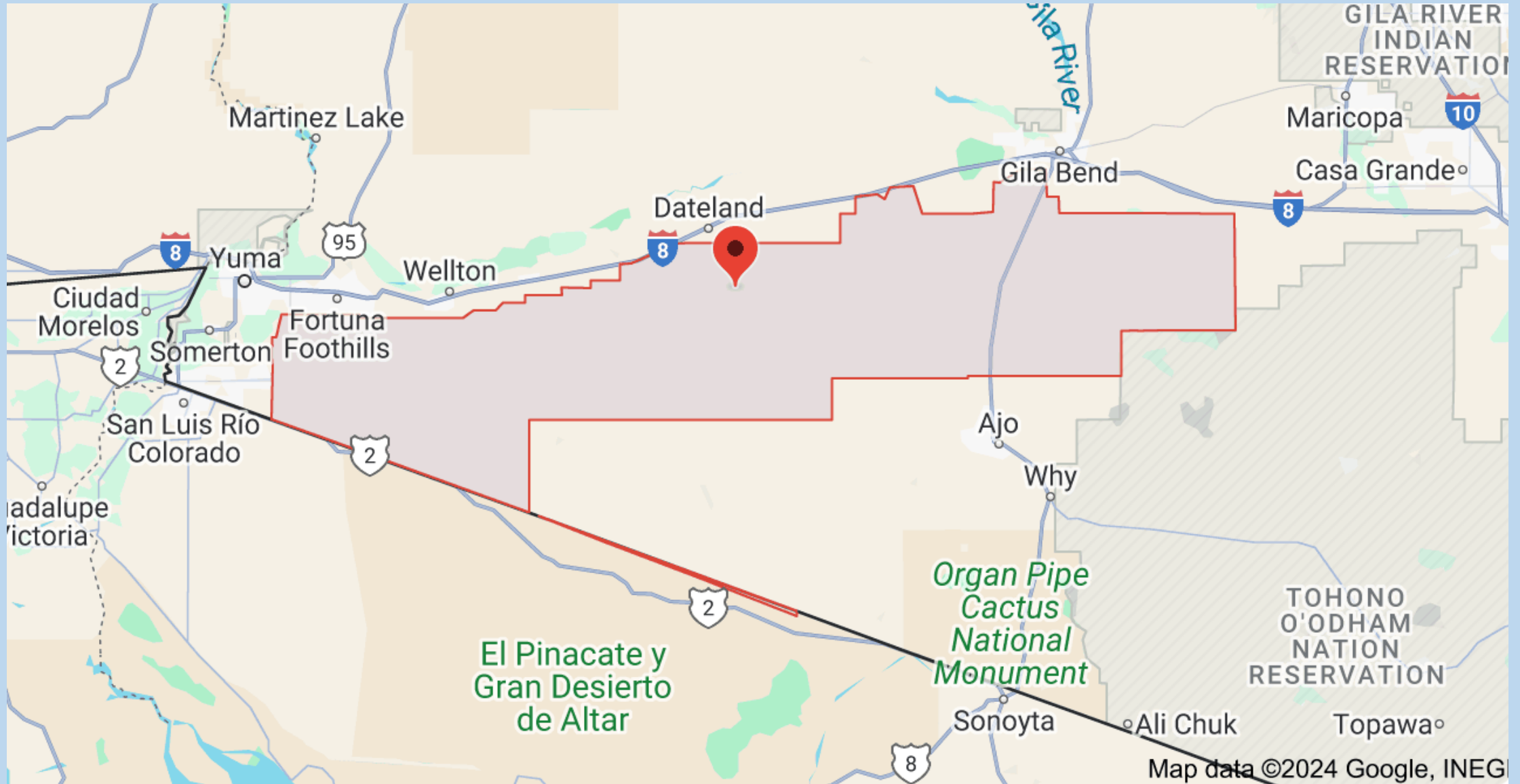
Sonic Booms at 5,000 ft. AGL (down From 30,000 ft. AGL)

30,000 Flares dropped yearly from 2,000 feet AGL (down from 5,000 ft. AGL)

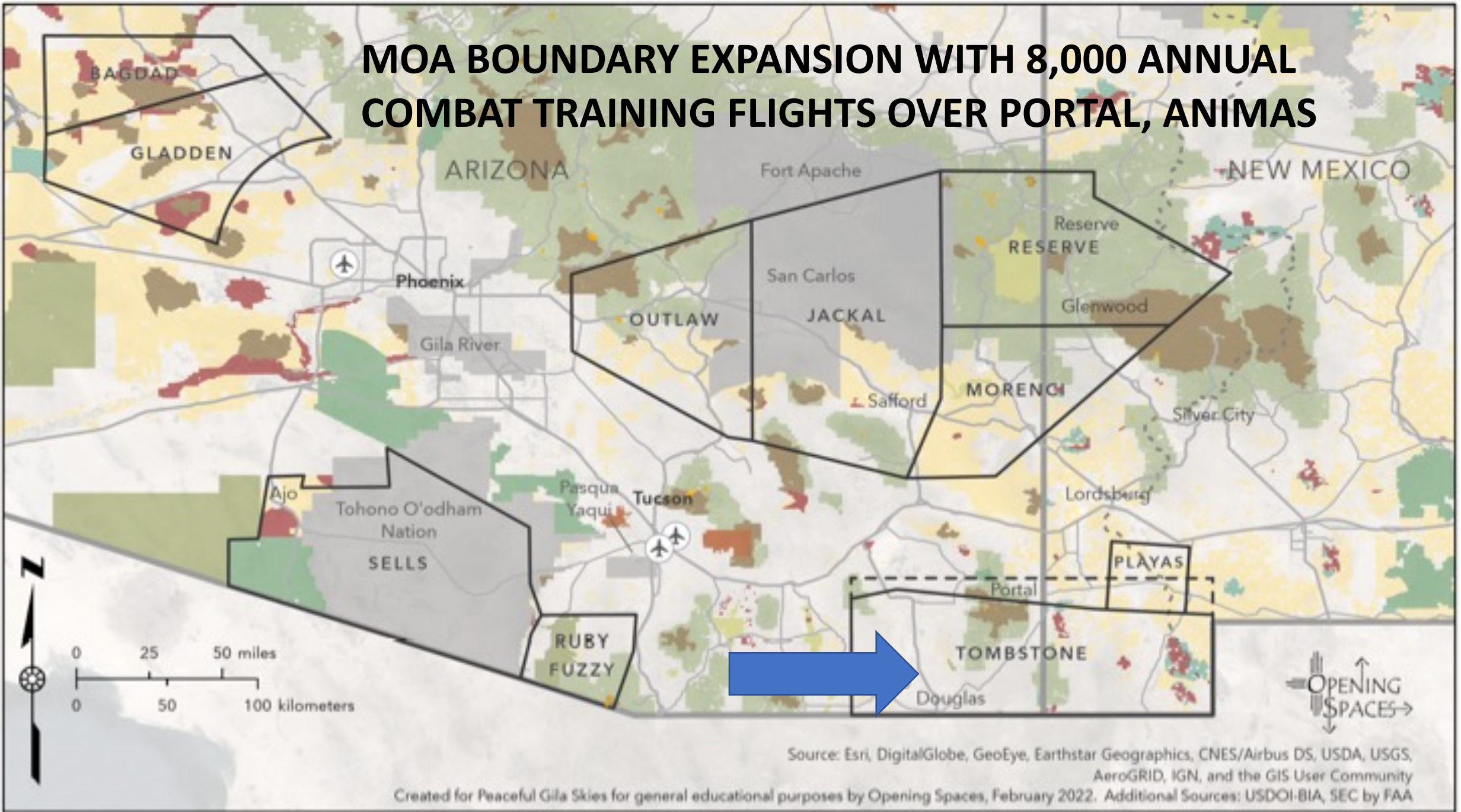
7,000 Chaff Bundles dropped annually from 2,000 ft. AGL (Not allowed Now)

BARRY M. GOLDWATER RANGE

**1.9 million acres of undisturbed federal land / 57,000 cubic miles of airspace
already used for air-to-air and air-to-ground battlefield training missions**



MOA BOUNDARY EXPANSION WITH 8,000 ANNUAL COMBAT TRAINING FLIGHTS OVER PORTAL, ANIMAS



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community
Created for Peaceful Gila Skies for general educational purposes by Opening Spaces, February 2022. Additional Sources: USDO-I-BIA, SEC by FAA



**NO PUBLIC HEARINGS IN
COCHISE COUNTY—
MOST HEAVILY IMPACTED
COUNTY IN THE EXPANSION**

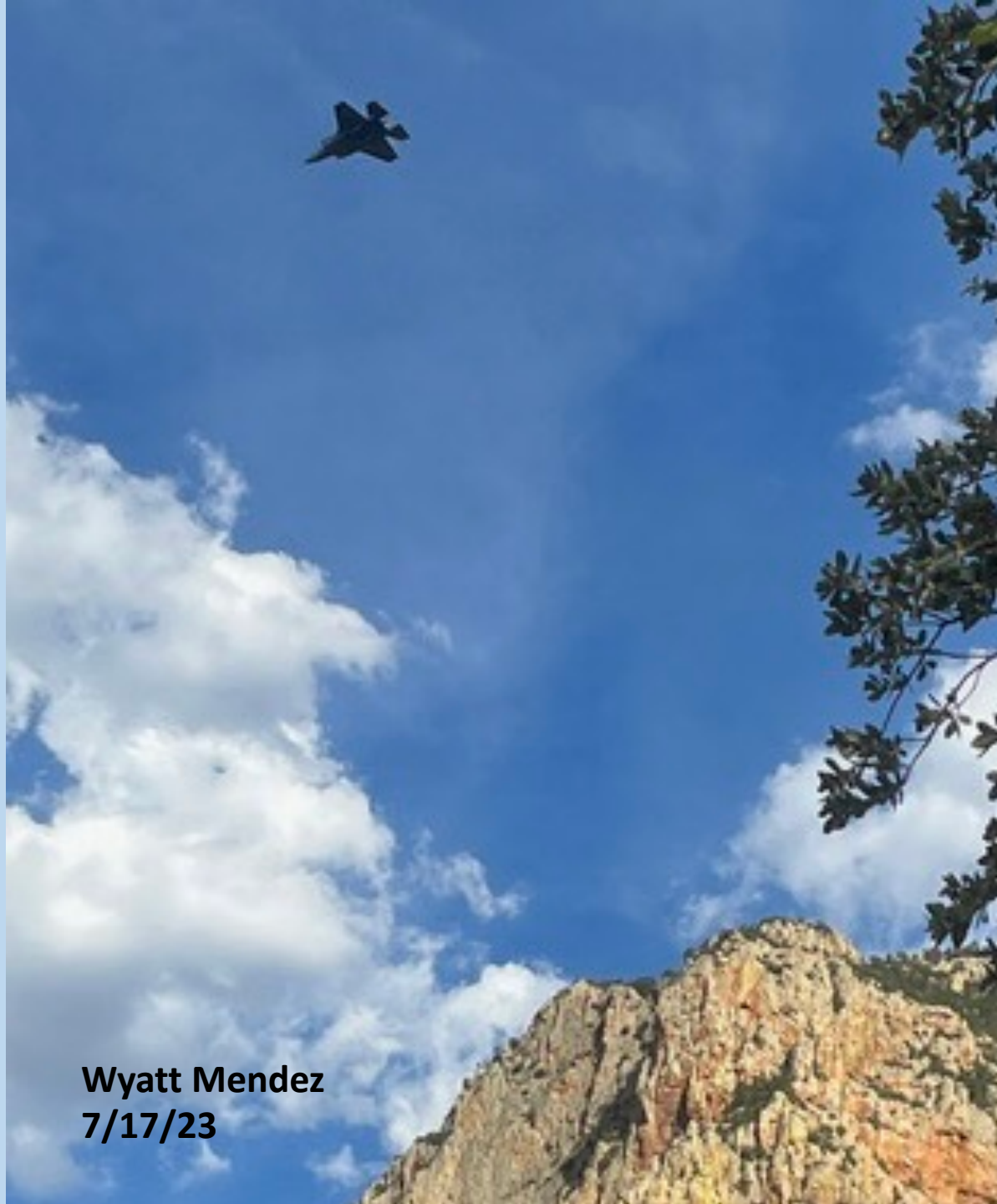
Need as 60-day Comment Extension

**Submit Public Comments By October 9—
even if you commented previously**

Examples of Violations

**F-35
over
Cave
Creek
Canyon**

Wyatt Mendez
7/17/23



**USAF WON'T
PROVIDE LEGAL
DESCRIPTION OF
BOUNDARIES**

**CBD FOIA
REQUEST BLOCKED
Lawsuit in progress**

Examples of Violations

PAVEHAWK HELICOPTER

Flying 100 feet
above residence
near Horseshoe
Canyon on
Aug. 14, 2023



S. Huckabay



Examples of Violations

F-16 below minimum 500' AGL from any building or person

Cave Creek Canyon near Portal, AZ

R. Wyatt Mendez,
July 28, 2022



**Examples of
Violations**

**C-130 over
Portal, AZ
@200 ft.**

January 31, 2024

D. Lane
1/31/24

DAMAGE FROM “SONIC BOOMS”

F-16 or F-35 at 5,000 feet = 200 decibels

Air Pressure burst can damage structures



More than double the OSHA allowable decibels without hearing protection

PEOPLE — LIVESTOCK — PETS — WILDLIFE — STRUCTURES
— ECONOMY —

RELEASE of 7,000 Bundles of CHAFF annually

Countermeasure to confuse enemy radar



**NEW PROPOSAL WOULD ALLOW DROP OF CHAFF
FROM 2,000 FEET above ground**

(Currently: NOT ALLOWED IN TOMBSTONE MOA)



CHAFF FIBERS EASILY REACH THE GROUND

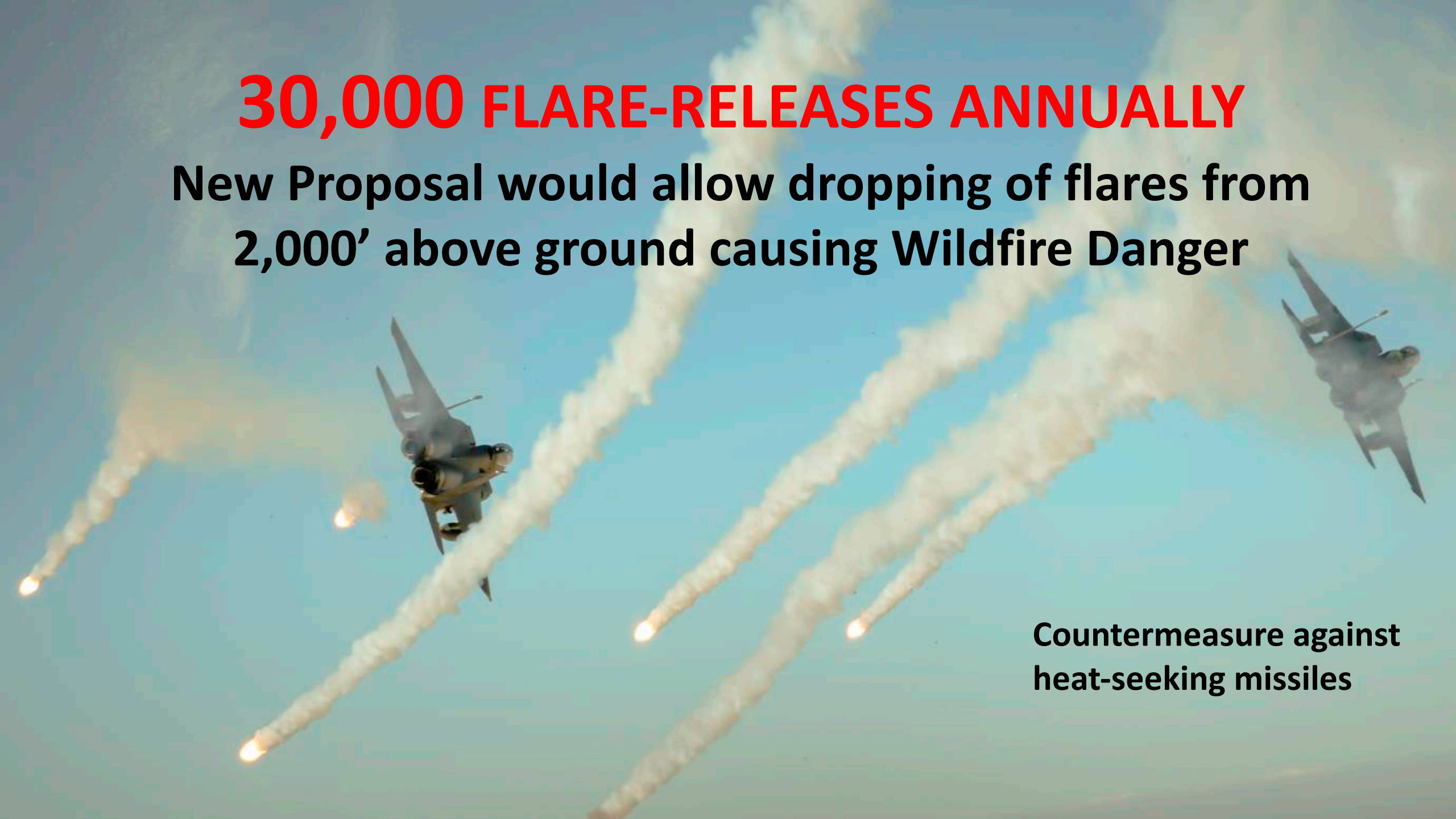
**ALUMINUM-COATED
FIBERGLASS STRANDS**

**Contain Toxic PFAS
FOREVER CHEMICALS**

**USAF FIGHTING LAWSUITS OVER
REFUSAL TO CLEAN UP PFAS POLLUTION**

30,000 FLARE-RELEASES ANNUALLY

**New Proposal would allow dropping of flares from
2,000' above ground causing Wildfire Danger**



**Countermeasure against
heat-seeking missiles**

2,000-degree Magnesium Flare



Flares do not always ignite,
do not always burn out
before hitting ground



Flares caused 10 different fires on San Carlos Apache Tribal lands torching 21,000 acres.

SERIOUS CRASH RISKS

"Six F-16s have been involved in accidents in 2023. About three Fighting Falcons have been totaled each year on average for the past decade."

—*The Air Force Times*

"29 F-35s have crashed since the plane was developed 10 years ago."

—*Aviation Safety Network*

DEIS IGNORES IMPACTS

What are the benefits for local residents and communities?

- **No Tangible Benefits Reported in the just-released DEIS**

What are the negatives for local residents and communities?

- **Loss of quality of life and safety—“No Significant Impacts”**
- Stress on personal health and well-being, loss of privacy
- Reduced R.E. values (disclosures, lost sales, county prop. tax losses).
- Reduction in tourism due to loss of quiet and wildlife in recreation areas
- Disruption of livestock and pet activities due to extreme noise levels.
- Increased risk of wildfires from flares, crashes
- Biodiversity damage from chaff releases
- Damage to structures caused by sonic booms

THREATS TO WILDLIFE / WILDLANDS

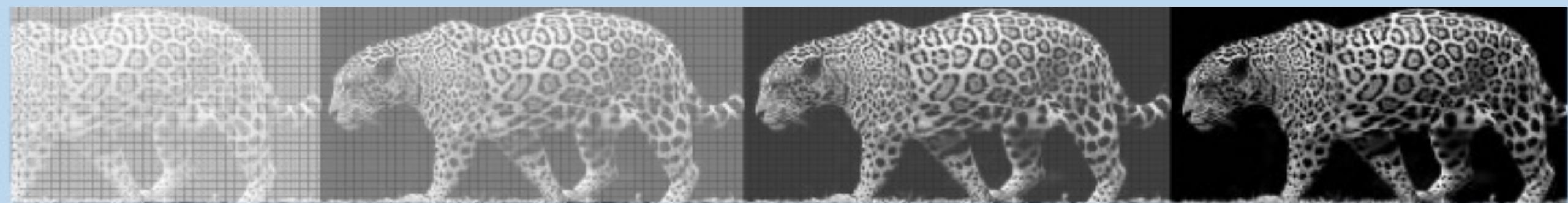
DEIS AIRSPACE COVERS:

140 ESA-Listed plant and animal species

1,234,543 acres of Designated Wilderness

1,956,010 acres of Critical Habitat Designations

**Low-level, High-Decibel Training flights can
“adversely modify designated critical habitats”
for ESA-Listed species—USFWS**



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- 1. SUBMIT COMMENTS BY OCTOBER 9!**
arizonaregionalairspaceeis.com/comments
- 2. REPORT EVERY NUISANCE FLIGHT**
- 3. SIGN PETITION ON PCS WEBSITE (2,500 now!)**
- 4. ADD YOUR NAME TO OUR MAILING LIST**
- 5. TELL ELECTED OFFICIALS TO OPPOSE-(It's Working!)**
- 6. WRITE LETTERS TO EDITORS**
- 7. SPREAD THE WORD ON SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS**

COMMENT LOGISTICS

- **Due OCTOBER 9**
- Can be submitted online or in writing (must be postmarked by Oct. 9)
- Submit written comments even if you commented earlier or presented oral comments
- You may submit multiple comments



Your Comment

I am providing my comment *

Please Check Here

Would you like to receive a notification when the Final EIS is available? *

Yes

No

*If yes, please provide name and mailing address. If you do not wish to receive notification, this information is optional.

First Name *

Last Name *

Address

City

State

Zip Code

I am submitting my comment as a: *

Comment *



YOUR COMMENTS

- What is “substantive” and does it matter?
- What are the most effective comments to make?
- Does this matter if the USAF is ignoring us anyway?
 - Likely future actions including lawsuits

Important Comment Ideas

- **Adequate alternatives are not provided in the DEIS.**
Suggest the Barry M. Goldwater Range.
- **Draft EIS is analytically inadequate.**
See suggestions on the website about chaff, flares, fire risk, wildlife, etc.
- **Adequate mitigations are not provided.**
Suggest excluding wilderness areas, national parks, tribal lands, etc.
- **The USAF process has lacked of transparency and accountability.**
Not adhering to NEPA, lack of public and agency input, ignoring scoping comments, not responding to nuisance flight reports, refusing FOIAs, etc.
Comment Period Needs to be Extended 60 Days to Comply with NEPA.

Tell your stories!

Top-Line Comment phrases that Matter....

1. Tell the Air Force that expanding military combat training over rural communities and tribal and public lands is not acceptable.
2. The Air Force should restrict its lower elevation and supersonic flights, and other combat training, such as dropping chaff and flares, to the Barry M. Goldwater Range where it's already happening.
3. The Air Force must not shift the burden of risk to rural and tribal communities in southern AZ and NM.

More comment ideas at:

- peacefulchiricahuaskies.com/resources/deiscomments/

DONATE TO PROTECT OUR PEACEFUL SKIES

Donate to PCS fiscal agent
Chiricahua Regional Council
www.chiricahuaregionalcouncil.org

For Detailed Information on How You Can Help:
www.peacefulchiricahuaskies.com



Thank You....
QUESTIONS?



Peaceful Chiricahua Skies

Peacefulchiricahuaskies.com

[<peacefulchiricahuaskies@gmail.com>](mailto:peacefulchiricahuaskies@gmail.com)

520-369-3503

P.O. Box 16147, Portal, AZ 85632