

I am writing to submit comments on the Arizona Regional Airspace Draft EIS.

Recently in a KOLD 13 News interview, Claire Waldo, Chief of Public Affairs for the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base said, "We want our pilots to train exactly like they're going to fight. So in combat, many aircraft will operate at altitudes as low as 100 feet above ground level and at high air speeds to defeat ground missile radars and avoid sophisticated surface-to-air missiles."

The proposal for the Tombstone MOA is to not only fly jets at 100 feet AGL, but to fly supersonic flights at 5,000 feet AGL, to drop 30,000 flares annually from 2,000 feet AGL, and to drop 7,000 chaff bundles from 2,000 feet AGL.

I think you have said the quiet part out loud, that you want where we live to be a practice combat zone. I take this statement to mean this is just a prelude to dropping bombs and live fire above our homes.

Where does this end? You could simply keep things the way they are or you could ask for more and more until you have a literal combat zone in what was a wilderness area.

Short of all-out war on US soil, you have to stop somewhere. I think the current proposal goes too far. You might as well continue to destroy the Barry Goldwater Range and use simulations to meet your goals.

Perhaps you could work weekends on the Barry Goldwater Range to preserve other wilderness lands. On one hand, you claim to want to simulate everything your pilots will experience in a war situation, and saying that working weekends is just too hard is absurd.

You actually wreck the places you practice. Demanding ever more square miles of US soil to destroy in order to simulate every aspect of war is exactly what our enemies would wish upon us.

Additionally, you don't explain your need for ever larger practice lands considering the planned decommission of the A-10 fleet. I am unaware of any planned replacement for the A-10 in this location. This feels like a land grab. Doubtless, you will try to lure new military aircraft fleets from elsewhere with all the additional range you are working so hard to acquire.

If war is everything, everything is war.

Expanding military combat training over rural communities and public lands here is not acceptable and wholly unnecessary.

I request that you abandon this proposal and restrict your low 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.

Sincerely,

Brad Emerson