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The US Air Force Proposal to expand training flights in SE Arizona & New Mexico, especially in the Tombstone MOA in Cochise County, is dangerous and destructive. Even aside from concerns about flare and chaff release, frequent & extreme jet noise impact forced onto unprotected people and onto an insurmountable number of wildlife species is shockingly egregious.

Residents, scientific researchers, naturalists, businesses, and recreational visitors to the Coronado National Forest, the American Museum of Natural History's Southwest Research Station, and business venues have issued numerous complaints over the years. All are incredulous at witnessing AF fighter jets lack of adherence to boundary & maximal 500' above ground flight level regulations paired with apparent absence of Air Force supervision and accountability.

I served as a Nurse Practitioner for 8 years for the U.S Department of Defense doing Post Deployment Health Reassessments and completed an average of over 7,000 of these screenings annually with referrals when indicated. Our teams were seriously dedicated to assisting & protecting the health of those who serve our country. Their # 1 and #2 military related disabilities are: Ringing of the Ears (Tinnitus) and Hearing Loss. These injuries are commonly due to loud noise exposures that result in permanent damage to hearing with major life-long daily communication struggles and reduced options for many work & life activities.

Rehabilitation services and disability compensation expenses for those two injuries are astronomical, this is why the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs employs the largest number of audiologists & specialists in hearing and balance disorders nationwide (www.rehab.va.gov 8/28/2024). The company 3M is currently beginning to pay **\$6 billion dollars** in a 2023 settlement lawsuit as their Combat Arms Earplugs failed to effectively protect service members. This is the largest mass tort litigation in U.S. history (hearingheathmatters.org; May 8, 2024)

The Veterans of Foreign Wars reports that 3M's recent patent #11925232 dated March 2024 "is doubling down on innovative technology to build a better ear protection device" (VFW news Sept 13, 2023). No fully adequate hearing protective device yet exists.

Given that the military's own hearing protection for service members is an ongoing complex and costly challenge, the **Air Force claims that unprotected residents and species who inhabit this pristine environment in the Tombstone MOA will not be impacted is blatantly false.**

Normal conversation is at 60 decibels, noise above 85 decibels is harmful, more so with cumulative exposures. F-15 and F-35 jets register deafening 120-140 decibels depending on altitude, air speed, and terrain/topography characteristics <https://hearing.health.mil/> Debilitating injuries to almost all life forms and structures are clearly predictable with frequent flights to 100' above ground level, more so with F35 supersonic jets capable of breaking the sound barrier.

In 2022 the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a new international standard for hearing safety recommendations including: a maximum average sound level of 100 decibels, live monitoring and recording of sound levels using calibrated equipment by trained staff, drawing on the latest evidence and consultations with a range of experts from WHO, government, industry, consumers, and civilians (www.who.int 2/3/2022) The Air Force has not followed the WHO guidelines, acoustical testing in the area proposed for extension has not been done, and residents certainly cannot follow the Dept. of Defense Center for Hearing Loss Excellence recommendations (<https://hearing.health.mil/>)

Is the Air force prepared to offer full compensation for shockingly loud jet noise exposures resulting in hearing loss, tinnitus, physical accidents due to human & animal reflex reactions, damages to homes, businesses, property values, and to Arizona's irreplaceable natural environment?

In view of the obvious dangers referenced above and in numerous comments submitted by many others, expanding Air Force training over the Tombstone MOA is totally unjustified.

Deborah Herczog
Portal, AZ