The proposal to emit sonic booms and hot flares over public lands in New Mexico and Arizona by the US Air Force is a terrible plan for wildlife, Native Americans, national monuments and wilderness areas, over which these blasts would be heard. Furthermore, permitting the dropping of flares at lower altitudes would increase the risk of wildfires on drought-stricken lands. Additionally, the plan to release aluminum-coated silica over public lands would impact communities of color with greater health impacts including asthma, heart disease, and diabetes from the pollution this "chaff" would emit. As a person with asthma myself, I can attest to the frustration of having difficulty breathing after the fireworks from 4th of July celebrations and having to visit the ER after a most troubling 4th of July celebration.

I would strongly support the US Air Force evaluating the impacts of the extreme noise on livestock, recreation, and wildlife. Furthermore, an assessment of the wildfire risk from the use of flares deployed at lower elevations should be completed, as well as mitigation measures necessary to reduce these risks. Additional evaluation of the pollution of the air, land, and water from the aircraft emissions should also be assessed. I have a friend who is 62 years old who served for 20 years in the US Air Force who is now on chemotherapy for treatment of bladder cancer which has spread to her brain due to exposure to aircraft fuel while serving in the Air Force. This aircraft pollution is nothing to take lightly especially when flying over low income and communities of color. These tribal communities include the San Carlos and White Mountain Apache Tribes, Tohono O'odham Nation, and Pascua Yaqui Tribe. For these reasons I strongly oppose the use of fighter jet trainings over the public and Indigenous lands in New Mexico and Arizona. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.