Low Down Spraying in Phoenix

I was walking my dog across the baseball field, toward the east as the sun was rising, and suddenly a large jet was flying very low from the east spraying two wide trails. It looked like an old American Airlines passenger jet with a red stripe on the side, and couldn't have been higher than 1,500 feet.

The trails looked like they were being sprayed from the ends of the wings, then they merged in the center into one large trail. The trail had the plume-like structures in it that are so familiar by now, and was very full, but it looked lighter than usual. The jet was very quiet.

I know this was not "air turbulence" at the tips of the wings, as some people claim, because the trail remained visible long after the jet had passed.

My dog and I stopped in the middle of the field and just watched. Suddenly the trails stopped completely, and the jet continued across the sky to the west. I was watching it to see if it would turn on its spray again, but it didn't. I could see some windows on the side as it passed by, but they looked almost painted on, not like real windows. It seemed to be going slow, but it made its way to the western horizon within two minutes. As it reached the western part of the sky, the trails turned on again.

When I turned back to the trail it had left in the east, it was gone, and had merged into a very thick white haze that surrounded the rising sun in the east.

- Mike in Phoenix 03/15/2012