

Gov Don
L. M. O. V. I. N. X

Talking Paper
on
The Personnel Implications with Proposed F-16 Basing

The Air Force's input to the BRAC process draws down F-16 Force structure and affects nearly every active duty and Reserve Component base

- The AF is retiring its older versions (Blocks) of the F-16
- The AF is returning to a proven concept of having 24 aircraft in each squadron
- Recently, because of having too few airplanes to fill every squadron, many were equipped with just 18 aircraft.
 - 3 squadrons of 24 aircraft = 72 aircraft, a "full wing"
 - 3 squadrons of 18 aircraft = 54 aircraft, a less than "full wing"
 - It takes 4 squadrons of 18 aircraft to get to 72 aircraft, a "full wing" size
 - However, 3 squadrons of 24 aircraft produce more sorties than 4 squadrons of 18

The AF's efforts to consolidate into 24 aircraft squadrons with only one "Block" of F-16s at each base will result in an unintended consequence of creating an imbalance of overseas assignments. Another way to think of this is that there will not be enough assignment opportunities in the USA for people who are tied to the F-16 (pilots and maintenance personnel) to take a break from overseas assignments.

The driving force in the AF's assignment practices is that the people returning from overseas have the right to come home and must be replaced.

- There are two types of overseas assignments: long tours (2-3years) and short tours (remote) of 12-15 months
- The AF has traditionally manned overseas outposts at the expense of stateside bases. The rationale is simple: troops in Korea, and other hot spots, must be "Ready to fight, tonight!"
 - The target is 100 percent manning at overseas locations
 - Any shortfall in personnel is then evenly distributed to stateside locations
 - During severe manning shortfalls, AF has taken overseas manning down to 90 percent, but stateside manning was even lower

On the day the AF assigns an individual overseas, he or she is given a Date Eligible to Return from Overseas (DEROS). The DEROS is the day that person has the right to return to the States. The individual knows, and the AF knows, when he or she is coming home. That individual's DEROS drives the requirement for a replacement

- By policy, the AF will not send an individual as a non-volunteer to another overseas location. However, some do volunteer to serve Consecutive Overseas Tours (COT). Therefore, most airmen come back to the states and stateside locations send replacements.
 - When filling the requirements for overseas positions, the AF looks for volunteers first
 - When there are insufficient numbers of volunteers to fill all the slots, the assignment folks compare individual DEROSs to see whose turn it is to go back overseas, i.e., "Who has been in the states the longest?" People who have not been overseas have a DEROS in the assignment system of the day they came on active duty.

The AF policy on remote assignments is: "Nobody will be forced to serve a second remote tour until everyone else has served one remote tour."

-Individuals returning from remote tours get a Short Tour Return Date (STRD) and a counter that counts the number of remote tours

-If everyone has already served one, then the AF compares STRDs to find the individual whose turn it is to go remote again

-You must have been in the USA at least one year before being sent remote

With this basic knowledge of the AF assignment system, let's look at where the requirements for F-16 specific people will be after the BRAC proposal (see Atch 1). The mix of 3 remote, 6 long tours overseas, and 12 CONUS assignments will cause a very high turnover of personnel from stateside assignments.

To over simplify the problem, let's assign 3 people to each squadron and look at the dynamics over a three-year period:

-The remotes will turnover 100 percent of personnel every year; therefore you'll need nine people initially, 9 more the second year, and 9 the last year. Those replacements will come from the states. Remotes have triple the requirements of long tours!

-The long tour locations will turnover 33 percent of their personnel every year. You'll start with 18 people to cover these. You'll need 6 more the second year and 6 again in the last year. These replacements will also come from the states

-Stateside locations are supposed to be the shock absorber in the assignment system. Those locations began with 36 people and had to send 18 to the remote assignments and 12 to the long tours in just two assignment cycles!

However, the assignment process is much more complex than this simple example. In reality, some people come into the AF for only one enlistment: 4-6 years. Some stay for a second term and leave. The decision to remain in the AF is made in the kitchen of the homes of AF personnel with an input from the spouse.

The results at Atch 2 are from a more sophisticated model which takes many of these factors into account. It replicates the AF's recruiting practice of replacing 10 percent of its force every year and assumes nominal retention figures for first term, second term, and career airmen. But the results confirm what you encountered in the simplified version. Airmen will spend nearly 50 percent of their time overseas and return to the states for only 2 ½ years between assignments to long and short tour locations.

F-16 Rotational Base

Remote/Overseas/CONUS

	Today	Post BRAC
<u>Remote squadrons</u>		
Kunsan AB	2	2
Osan AB	1	1
<u>Overseas squadrons</u>		
Eilson AB	1	0
Missawa AB	2	2
Spangdahlem AB	2	2
Aviano AB	2	2
<u>CONUS squadrons</u>		
Cannon AFB	3	0
Hill AFB	3	3
Luke AFB	8	6
Mt Home AFB	1	0
Shaw	3	3
Totals:	3 Remote 7 O/S tours 18 CONUS	3 Remote 6 O/S tours 12 CONUS

Economic Impact

- Current analysis shows that Air Force reported economic impact is understated.
- The Air Force BCEG report of January 2005 stated the impact at 28.24% and the February 2005 version stated it at 20.47%.
- 28.24% is a conservative estimate based on our ongoing analysis.

COBRA Review

- The detailed data needed to completely review and compare cost analyses of recommended actions is still unavailable to affected communities.
- What we **do** know is that projected Net Present Value savings from the “close Cannon” scenario went from \$1.3 billion to \$2.7 billion in the last few weeks before release of the recommendations.
- What we **do** know is that the Air Force failed to consider the cost of personnel and mission costs as part of the redistribution of the aircraft. If they had done so, the payback period for recovering the cost would be **never**, and the net savings would be **nonexistent**.

COBRA Model Excursions – June 12 Cannon AFB

- On June 12, one community COBRA Excursion was completed by modifying the DOD Recommendation COBRA for Cannon AFB’s closure recommendation – COBRA USAir Force 0114V3 (125.1c2).CBR. The results are reported below.
- **Excursion Name: COBRA USAir Force 0114V3 (125.1c2) COMM 1 June 12 05.CBR.**
 - Modification to Air Force COBRA assumptions: Retained all eliminated personnel to support force structure moves and relocated them to Nellis AFB as the most likely installation to receive the bulk of personnel.
 - Result: The changes in significant cost/savings data are displayed in the table below with the most significant presented in **bold** font. The Air Force Recommendation COBRA data is presented in the first row for comparison to the Excursion results displayed in the second row in **blue**.

Scenario	Payback Period (Years)	Costs/Savings (\$K)				
		20 - Year NPV	1-Time	Personnel (2006 – 2011)	Total (2006 - 2011)	Annual Total Recurring
Recommendation Scenario	Immediate	-2,706,756	90,101	-772,995	-815,558	-200,497
Community Excursion 1	Never	169,036	86,623	109,923	117,580	6,158

Alternative Scenarios

Cannon appears to have been considered only for closure.

Cannon was not fully evaluated with respect to existing and programmed weapons systems or current and future missions.

- **Retain Cannon AFB**

- 27th Fighter Wing remains in place
- 1 Squadron Block 30s to Guard as proposed; 1 Squadron Block 40s to Active as proposed; 2 Squadrons Block 50s from Spangdahlem AB to Cannon AFB; Singapore F-16s remain at Cannon.
- Retains supersonic air space for current and future missions: JSF, UCAV.

- **Fighter Bases**

- Shaw to Cannon: Superior overland training with no encroachment
- Oceana to Shaw, Shaw to Cannon: Eliminates Navy's Oceana problem
- Oceana to Seymour, Seymour to Cannon

- **Retrograde of Overseas Forces & Surge Base**

- Return Wing from EUCOM in response to changing strategic requirements

- **Training Bases**

- Oceana to Moody, Moody to Cannon: Eliminates Navy's Oceana problem
- Portions of Luke to Cannon: Solves encroachment problem and provides for future mission

- **Utilize Synergy of NM installations**

- Contingency/Joint Force Operations: Advances "purple" force; already a reality (ROVING SANDS)
- Kirtland, Holloman, White Sands and Ft. Bliss with Cannon: AGS mission synergies and efficiencies

Letters

1. Testimonies of military value and DOD substantial deviation from BRAC criteria.
 1. 4 Star Joe Ashy
 2. 3 Star James Knight
 3. 2 Star Rick Goddard & Tom Hickey
 4. Col. Arnold Franklin, Dale Hensley & Jack Gray
 5. MSgt. Julie Angle
2. New Mexico State Land Commissioner information concerning air easement over State land (contingent upon keeping Cannon).



May 23, 2005

Commissioner, BRAC
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner:

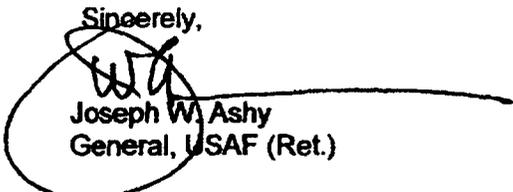
I'm a retired USAF general, and I had the honor of serving in both Air Combat Command (numerous leadership positions including Vice Commander) and Air Education and Training Command (Commander). I'm a fighter pilot and understand employment of airplanes and air base management.

I can imagine the volume of these kinds of inputs you have gotten and will continue to receive regarding your assigned task. But that goes with your "territory" which I support. However, an input:

I believe it is ill advised to close Cannon AFB versus Columbus AFB when one considers the airspace and range-space measures of merit. I'm very familiar with both installations, and you obviously considered both in their "mission stovepipes". You can move types of airplanes around easily, but you cannot utilize encroached airspace and you sure can't get new range space in today's complicated environment.

My view is that you ought to take a re-look at this out of the mission category environment. Then, the measures of merit will lead you to the correct thing to do. The way it is now, you don't have it right in my view. Thanks for your consideration in your tough and challenging assignment.

Sincerely,



Joseph W. Ashy
General, USAF (Ret.)

23 May 2005

BRAC Commission
Arlington, VA

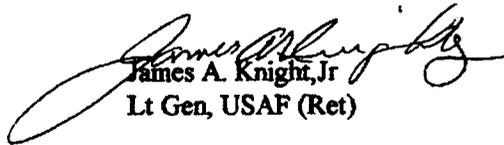
Commissioners,

I am shocked and dismayed to see Cannon AFB, New Mexico on the list of bases recommended to be closed ! The base facilities are certainly more than adequate to support continued, long term use. In addition, the nearby gunnery and bombing range is an asset that is practically irreplaceable anywhere in the country and the airspace available for most all types of training is unusually clear of other air traffic.

But beyond all of the above, in my 36 years of Air Force service, never did I witness community support as strong and sincere as that which exists from the proud , deeply patriotic citizens of Clovis, NM and Curry County. I am aware that significant local funds have been expended over many years to expand the gunnery range acreage and to expand family housing available to base personnel. A better relationship between a city and an airbase cannot be found—it is a family affair !My assignment there resulted in deep friendships with Clovis citizens that continue long after my retirement.

I urge you to go there and experience the base , its people, and the Clovis citizen support before making a decision.

Very respectfully,


James A. Knight, Jr
Lt Gen, USAF (Ret)

1 June 2005

Chairman Anthony Principi
Members of the BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark St
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Subject: Cannon AFB

Dear Chairman Principi and Members of the Commission,

I write this letter with clear understanding and appreciation of the very serious task you have ahead of you. I also understand the time and effort expended by the Air Staff in developing closure recommendations. However, I simply can not leave unchallenged a decision that I know is not based on sound, first hand knowledge of the present and future military value resident in Cannon AFB. This letter presents my views, as former Commander of the 27th Fighter Wing, on the DoD BRAC recommendation to close Cannon AFB. Having commanded two fighter/bomber wings, including the 27th at Cannon, I believe my perspective may differ from the assessment of the Air Staff regarding the components of "military value". I am especially concerned with the weighting assigned those components when assessing the training environment of Air Force installations. It is, after all, the primary mission of our CONUS fighter bases to conduct combat training, and to do it in the safest, most cost effective and efficient manner possible. In my view the overall combat training environment at Cannon AFB is not equaled.

If the term "military value" is to have any credibility in its use as the final arbiter, it must have clear, unambiguous definition, and must not be influenced by "political value". It must also give appropriate weighted value to those components that contribute most significantly to the combat training mission. In the DoD recommendation, the Department stated that "all active duty F-16 Block 50 bases have higher military value than Cannon". For that to be true in any context of "military value", the following would have to be present at all active duty bases rated higher than Cannon.

1. Unencumbered airspace for 360 degrees around the base with no operating limitations
2. A 66,000 acre all weather tactical air to ground and electronic combat bombing range less than ten flying minutes from the base.
3. Multiple IFR/VFR low level training routes with wide variations in terrain, entry points within minutes of launch, and culminating at a fully instrumented bombing range.
4. Flying weather that yields over 320 good weather training days per year
5. No base encroachment from any direction and no operations limitations based on commercial/private development
6. Over \$200 million in new facility construction over the past ten years
7. First class operations, maintenance, services and family housing facilities
8. Lower overall flying hour costs than other installations in Air Combat Command

9. Based on the above, absolutely unlimited potential for future growth and adaptation to new and emerging missions
10. Unequaled community support – not just during BRAC, but every day in every way

All of the above exist at Cannon AFB today. If they are not the core components of "Military Value", I would challenge the basis of any criteria that is substantially different. In my experience, Cannon AFB has all the inherent characteristics that in combination make it the best training environment in the world. In a head to head comparison of components of "military value", I simply can not find justification for the comment that Cannon has less military value. For the above reasons, I urge the Commission to carefully weigh the factors that went into the DoD recommendation to close Cannon AFB.

Sincerely,

Richard N. Goddard
Major General USAF (Ret)

Thomas J. Hickey
20826 Cactus Loop
San Antonio, TX 78258

BRAC Commission
2521 South Clarke Street
Arlington, VA 22202

23 May 2005

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to voice my chagrin and concern over the Department of Defense decision to include Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico, on their suggested closure candidate list. I am unable to understand how that decision fits into any logical set of circumstances concerning the factors which should be used in making such decisions.

I am a former member of the 27th Tactical Fighter Wing stationed at Cannon AFB. I served as the Wing Assistant Deputy Commander for Operations; the Deputy Commander for Operations, the Vice Wing Commander and as Wing Commander from 1874 to 1978. I think I know that base and the surrounding community. I also have considerable military experience, having served in the Air Force for over 34 years.

For these reasons I find it unbelievable that any thoughtful review would close that base. It has both an expansive Air to Air Range and a complete Air to Ground Range. There is an abundance of low-level training routes surrounding the base. The base itself is well contained, and easily protected and secured. In this time of 'dispersal', as described for the actions proposed for the Capital area, Cannon represents a perfect example of a separate, but total basing package.

In my years there, I found the local community to be the most patriotic, militarily supportive, and just plain friendly of any base I was assigned. They have a world-wide reputation for such support throughout the Air Force, and I would guess within the Defense department.

In considering the local economic impact of base closure on that community, some of Cannons military attributes are a distinct disadvantage to the City of Clovis. Cannon is the ONLY significant employer within 100 miles. There are no other large industries. I currently live in San Antonio, Texas. When the last closure effort closed Kelly AFB, there was a great hue and cry about the impact on San Antonio. As you may know, that loss has been significantly overcome by good aggressive salesmanship and ingenuity. Many business entities are now a part of 'Kelly USA'. Unfortunately, there are no alternative businesses within shouting distance of Clovis. Cannons' closure can only be described as a permanent financial disaster for the city. Is this how we reward loyalty and support from our local communities?

I can only hope that your members will have a more reasoned and reasonable approach to this process.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Hickey, Major General, USAF, Ret'd.

BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

May 31, 2005

Colonel (Retired) Arnold L. Franklin, Jr.
2098 Dillard Rd.
Bowling Green, KY 42104

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to offer my strong support to remove Cannon Air Force Base from the latest list of possible base closings. I understand the need to downsize our infrastructure with the end of the cold war; however, I believe closing Cannon AFB as part of that effort would be the wrong move.

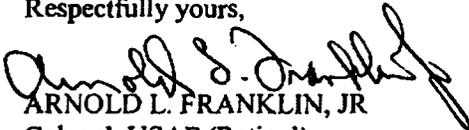
As a former Wing Commander at Cannon (1990—1992), I know first hand what an important role Cannon and Melrose Range have played in making our United States Air Force second to none. When you combine the excellent flying weather, the outstanding air space and range accessibility, the modern base facilities, and the superb support the local communities provide, I don't think you can find a better package anywhere in this great country.

I began my Air Force career at Cannon AFB. As a 2nd Lt, I entered F-111 training there in the Spring of 1968. And I ended my operational career there in 1992. During those 24 years I remained attuned to what was happening at Cannon, and can tell you that there did not then, and does not today, exist a better base/community relationship. Whatever the need, whatever the request, the community leaders are first in line to make sure it happens. During commander conferences, and during private conversations, I heard many horror stories about strained relationships wing commanders were experiencing with noise complaints, land encroachments, restricted flight operating hours due to "community concerns," etc. Not once did I face any of those types of problems.

In the near future, we are going to lose Luke Air Force Base near Phoenix, Arizona. I went to pilot training at Williams AFB near Phoenix. It is now closed. In those days, it was common to read/hear of community concerns over the "problems" of noise complaints and encroachment at Luke. This situation is much more severe today, and will only get worse in the future. In short, we will get tired of fighting the community, and will be forced to close Luke. When that day arrives, there will be no Cannon AFB to fall back on.

I thank you for your time. I know how busy you are. I also know how difficult and important your task. With that in mind, I respectfully request you remove Cannon AFB from further consideration for base closure. If I can be of further service, please do not hesitate to call me at 270-746-0289.

Respectfully yours,


ARNOLD L. FRANKLIN, JR
Colonel, USAF (Retired)

3 June 2005

General Lloyd W. Newton (USAF, Ret.)

Dear "Fig",

It has been a lot of years since our time at Clark AB, P.I. flying F-4Ds out of the 523 TFS. If you remember, I was a Maintenance Sq. Commander getting a local check out as a WSO. You were an important part of this instruction program as I often flew your back seat. We must have been doing some things right as we both survived this experience.

My real purpose in writing is to provide an input for consideration during your evaluation of Cannon AFB on the current BRAC list. According to the information I have seen, Cannon did not score very high on the "military value" criteria when bases were being considered for placement on the closure list. Cannon is classified as a small base with three F-16 squadrons plus supporting a Singapore F-16 training squadron. However, some factors influencing the military value of Cannon might not have been given full consideration by evaluators not totally aware of the bases' present capability for expansion without any requirement for new infrastructure or facilities.

A few years ago Cannon was earmarked for an air division to be on line by 1993. The plan would have activated the 835th Air Division and would have included the 27th Fighter Wing with three squadrons of F-111Ds. A new 474th Training Wing with two squadrons of F-111Gs and an academic squadron would have been added. Some 48 F-111s which included the F-111Es from Upper Heyford AB, UK, the F-111Fs from Lakenheath AB, UK, and EF-111 Ravens from Mountain Home AFB would have been added to Cannon's inventory and the base population would have increased by about 1,700 people. This plan did not get fully implemented because of budget constraints. The final bed-down included five squadrons of 64 F-111Fs, 25 EF-111A Ravens, and 16 F-111Es. However, the expansion of F-111 fleet at Cannon prompted a huge construction and improvement program. This program included several new hangars and added new maintenance and operations facilities. Also, a large hospital addition, 200 build-to-lease homes in Clovis, 150 similar units in Portales, two new 100-room dormitories (housing 200 airmen each), plus 361 single-family and duplex housing units adjacent to Cannon's existing "Chavez Manor housing area.

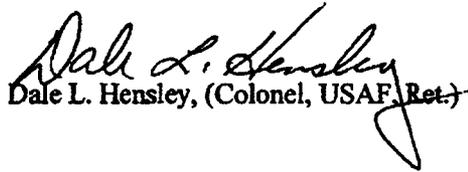
The point I am attempting to make is that Cannon has a tremendous current capability for expansion without additional funding. In fact, the base could easily accommodate two full wings of fighter aircraft and has in the past with F-100 aircraft. I do not know if the Air Force has decided where the future bed-down bases or schoolhouse for the F-35 will be located. Cannon would be an ideal candidate for either or both of these options. The facilities and infrastructure are currently available plus a new main runway that would require no maintenance for years, and a recently completed state of the art control tower. This capability for expansion plus abundant airspace, ideal flying

weather, future supersonic training capability, Melrose bombing range only minutes away, no encroachment issues and total support of the Clovis/Portales communities would be a great loss to the future of the Air Force if Cannon remains on the closure list.

I know you are a busy man Fig and have some hard decisions to make as a member of the BRAC commission. I would only ask that you consider the issues I have outlined above in your evaluation of Cannon's future "Military Value". During your visits to Cannon, if your schedule and time would permit, I would love to visit with you and rehash some past Clark AB experiences, further discuss Cannon's value to the Air Force and maybe play a round of golf on the base's superb course.

Pat and I wish you and Elouise all the best and hope to see you again soon either during your Cannon visits or a future 523rd TFS reunion.

Respectfully yours,


Dale L. Hensley, (Colonel, USAF, Ret.)

Copy: Clovis Committee of Fifty

Alto, New Mexico
3 June 2005

The BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Honorable Commissioners,

I am writing to express my concern with the Department of Defense's recommendation to close Cannon AFB, Clovis, New Mexico. While I believe there will be a significant detrimental economic impact on the local community I am not an expert in that area and will leave comment on that subject to those more knowledgeable than I. However, as a retired pilot, having served in operational positions in the United States Air Force for more than 30 years, I believe I am qualified to comment on the deleterious effect this recommendation will have on the operational training capabilities of the Air Force.

During my Air Force career I served at several operational bases, both in the CONUS and overseas, and operated on occasion from every operational base in the CONUS. I was fortunate to have spent five years at Cannon, in operational supervisory positions from Squadron Operations Officer, to Squadron Commander, to Deputy Commander for Operations (equivalent to current Operations Group Commander). It is my studied opinion that there is not a single base in the CONUS that is superior to, or even equal with, Cannon, AFB from an operational training viewpoint. The operational advantages of Cannon are numerous, not limited to the following:

- No operating constraints imposed by, or in place to placate the local community. The base is free to operate 24 hours per day, seven days a week.
- No nearby controlled terminal airspace. The only controlled airfield in the area is Cannon itself. It is not necessary to coordinate local operations with, or accommodate, another airfield, military or civilian.
- Not near the airway structure. Cannon is located well clear of the FAA controlled airway structure which means aircraft departing and arriving are not constrained by over-flying aircraft.
- Ready access to the low altitude training route structure.
- Access to supersonic training airspace.

- Proximity to an excellent air-to-ground bombing range. Melrose range is located just west of the Cannon traffic pattern. This allows for extended range time and ease of safe return in the event of an aircraft or ordnance malfunction.
- Dual, non-parallel runways, reducing the potential operational impact of crosswinds.
- Pro-military community attitude that does not support frivolous and disruptive complaints concerning low flying aircraft.

While many CONUS bases have some of these operational advantages, I do not believe there is another base that can claim to have all of them. Simply stated, no other base is as well suited for operational flying training.

I do not live in the Clovis area and I have no business or financial interest in that area. My single interest is in the operational capabilities of my Air Force and in my opinion they will be poorly served if you recommend the closure of Cannon AFB.

If you desire clarification or further information please feel free to contact me at any time.

Very Respectfully,

/Signed/
Jack E. Gray

Colonel, USAF (Retired)
P.O. Box 966 Alto, NM 88312
(505) 336-7598
seljack@valornet.com

Members of the BRAC Commission,

I am writing to lobby on behalf of Cannon AFB, NM. I came to Cannon in 1994 as an active duty Air Force spouse and have since made Clovis, NM my home. I have noted the number of times that the DoD has turned to Cannon to rapidly answer the call of an international crises. I have observed first hand the love that the local community has for Cannon and the measure that Clovis depends upon the base. Not just economically but as an integral part of the community. As I peruse the internet, I see mayors of other cities, such as those around Ft. Monroe, VA, almost salivating to get their hands on the property so that they can develop it for commercial gain. You will find no such desire in Clovis, NM.

Military members and family members work together with local residents as volunteers for organizations ranging from Little League baseball and football to fund raisers for the American Cancer Society. Military members and spouses work with the handicapped, the schools, and religious organizations in addition to providing a skilled labor force in many technical and profession fields. The Department of Defense estimates that the economic impact to the local region will be 20.5% of the jobs lost. This is the equivalent to the loss of 86,622 jobs in Washington DC, according to 2001 census data for non-farm jobs. Other studies have pegged the number much higher. A recent study by New Mexico State University estimated that over 25% of the jobs in the region would be lost. No other economic region has half as much impact on the local community as Cannon does to the Clovis microplex. To place this burden upon Clovis is scandalous.

I also believe that the DoD misapplied the data in determining the military value of Cannon AFB. Cannon is uniquely positioned to conduct joint training with both Ft. Bliss and Ft. Hood, TX. Through exercises such as Roving Sands this provides critical training to both the Army and the Air Force. Consolidating F-16's at Shaw AFB, SC or Nellis AFB, NV would make the Air Force less joint training capable, not more. Cannon is also positioned optimally to conduct homeland defense missions on the nation's southern border. It is more cost effective to do this from Cannon than from any other Air Force base. Additionally, it does not make sense to me to group like aircraft at one or two locations. Has the DoD forgotten the lessons of Pearl Harbor?

As another example of military value, at no other Air Force Base can pilots arrive at a range and begin dropping bombs with so little fuel wasted in transit. Not only does this result in a significant fuel savings but more importantly, it provides the opportunity for pilots to have more effective training with more training opportunities per sortie. This has helped make the 27th Fighter wing one of the most combat capable and ready wings in the Air Force, as evidenced through the many awards that the wing has garnered in just the last two years for safety, maintenance, and combat readiness.

The New Mexico Training Range Initiative also does not appear to have been factored into the determination of military value. This initiative, which is close to passage, will increase airspace availability, supersonic training capability and ease transitions between training areas. Cannon has zero encroachment from the local community and the ability to expand as much as is needed. Right now, infrastructure is in place to expand to two wings at Cannon. The two wing concept was designed when F-111's were here and the capability still exists today. The amount of

DCN: 11657

complaints, noise and otherwise, at Cannon are non-existent compared to other bases such Luke AFB.

There are a myriad of other reasons to keep Cannon as an integral part of the Air Force mission that space does not permit. To close this base would be short-sighted and severely cripple the nation's readiness, combat capability, and homeland defense.

Sincerely,

Brenda K. King
676 CR 5
Clovis, NM 88101
(505)683-0083

BRAC commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Va., 22202

May 21, 2005

MSgt Julie A. Angle, Retired, USAF
505 Wrangler Way
Clovis, NM 88101

Dear Members of the BRAC Commission

My name is MSgt Julie Angle, USAF Retired. If you would, please indulge me with a moment of your time, I would like to talk to you about my home of Clovis NM and Cannon AFB. My family and I were reassigned to Cannon three years ago after my husband retired from the Air Force and began working with the Civil Service at the base as the Chief of Protocol. We desired to move to a place we could call home when I retired in January 2005. When I saw a job at the Cannon Family Support Center, I knew this was where we were supposed to go. I have to say the time I spent as the Superintendent at the center greatly opened my eyes to the willingness and dedication of the men and women who serve at Cannon AFB. As a lead AEF wing, we processed hundreds of men and women several times a year to deploy to locations around the world. Cannon has been depended on for many years to produce top-notch war fighters, which they have done with ease, which brings me to my first point.

Training is the number one priority to any base, but as a lead AEF wing, it is even more paramount. With the location of our base, we offer many things. First, with the superior weather we have year round, our pilots can fly and meet sorties with ease. I have never lived anywhere in my 20 years of Air Force service that has the outstanding weather as Eastern New Mexico. Secondly, the ready access to the bombing and training ranges. With Melrose range and the White Sands Missile range being so close to the base, our war fighters spend more time practicing the scenarios than they do flying to get there using far less fuel going to a training sight than our sister bases do. Thirdly, being located to close to our Southern most boarders, Cannon can play a vital role in Homeland Security by providing close air support and working with our boarder patrols in the security of the United States.

Fourth, Cannon used to be host to two fighter wings allowing us to bring in any new mission with ease. We also have the ease and flexibility to expand Cannon due to the fact we suffer no encroachment issues as so many other bases due. Being located 10 miles from the city of Clovis gives us open fields and nothing but room to grow and grow and grow. You give us the mission and we will give you the space to facilitate it! Fourth, we have the supersonic initiative which has been approved and awaiting signature. How many places in the United States can you actually train at supersonic speed as you would in a war time environment? We need to train like we would fight. This brings me to the communities of Clovis and Portales. We have to think as well about our community and what impact of closing the base would have on it.

Cannon AFB employs roughly 4,000 active duty and civilian people. Imagine for a moment the impact of closing the base would have on the community of Clovis and Portales ... a

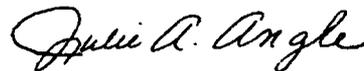
community of about 50,000 people many of which are armed service veterans who have retired here and depend on the base for commissary, Base Exchange and medical care. The Cannon family works very closely with both Clovis and Portales. The interaction shared between these two cities and the base is enormous. I have never experienced such love from two communities toward a base in the 20 years that I served in the military. Cannon Appreciation Days, days in the park to welcome home the troops from conflicts, to selling "support our troops" pins and turning the proceeds over to private organizations to use for the families of our deployed troops. The commitment of our communities as well as the Clovis Committee of Fifty and the Portales Military Affairs Committee is undying and to take the base away would be devastating to everyone who has supported and poured their heart and soul into Cannon AFB.

Clovis and Portales are two cities that have begun to expand, which is evident by the housing market. If Cannon were to close, this I'm afraid would come to a screeching halt. Who would want to come here and build a \$250,000 home when the value of the housing market and the economy is on the verge of collapse due to a base closure? What about those of us who are already here? With the initial announcement of the BRAC alone, the housing market is beginning to suffer. Many families have pulled out of housing deals for fear the base is going to close.

Education is also a factor to consider. We have a 12-year old daughter who has graciously, for many years, moved from school to school due to the fact we were both active duty. Yucca Junior High School is her fourth school in seven years. One of my primary concerns with any move is education and Clovis was no exception. She thrives as a straight-A student and has found her niche in the athletics program. We are extremely happy with the educational programs they have to offer here. Having to relocate her again, as many other families would, would cause a great deal of disruption to children who are entering such an impressionable and important time of their lives. Not to mention how school enrollments would suffer if the base were to close.

I thank you for your time and ask that you remove Cannon AFB from the BRAC list. Put yourself at our base and in our community and you will see what I say is true. Our community anxiously awaits your visit at the end of June, and we embrace the opportunity to prove to you that closing our base would be a mistake.

Sincerely



Julie A. Angle, MSgt, USAF Retired



PATRICK H. LYONS
COMMISSIONER

State of New Mexico
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June 7, 2005

Chairman Anthony Principi
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Re: State Land Office Interests at Cannon Air Force Base and Affiliated Ranges

Dear Chairman Principi:

I am disappointed that the Secretary of the Department of Defense recommended closing Cannon Air Force Base as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) proceedings. Closure will obviously have a devastating affect on economies throughout Eastern New Mexico, causing millions in lost revenues and displacing thousands of military employees and hundreds of civilian workers.

As the Commissioner of Public Lands it is my constitutional duty to manage the public lands held in trust for the benefit of our citizenry. As a courtesy, I would like to inform the Commission on the status of current and former state trust land holdings related to Cannon Air Force Base and the affiliated range. These lands include holdings which comprise the Melrose Bombing Range that were transferred to Cannon Air Force Base through condemnation, as well as effective easements granting various forms of access.

I consider the proposed base closing a potential abandonment of any and all Federal interest in the Base and its Bombing Range. Therefore, if the recommendation to close Cannon is accepted, I will seek to enforce all of the trust's rights at law and in equity, including but not limited to actions to regain all surface and subsurface interests throughout the property. Additionally, all environmental issues must be resolved to the satisfaction of the state prior to this reversion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick H. Lyons".

PATRICK H. LYONS
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

Summary

- For over 50 years, Cannon AFB has been an integral part of the Nation's defense establishment.
- No base better supported over the years by communities surrounding Cannon.
- The 27th Fighter Wing is one of the most efficiently run combat organizations in the world.
 - Due to superb facilities, airspace and range complexes uninhibited by encroachment or other restrictions.
- The approval of the NMTRI will improve training realism and capabilities.
- Weather, lack of encroachment, operational training environment, base facilities and infrastructure make Cannon an ideal base now and in the future.

Summary Continued

- Based on our analysis of more accurate data, Cannon AFB MCI score should go to 81.18 which would be 3rd highest in entire USAir Force 104 bases. This score more accurately reflects the true military value for Cannon.
- Cannon AFB is what an ideal Air Force base should be today and in the future, because it has **NO** operations limitations, **NO** encroachment.
- Cannon AFB airspace and range are irreplaceable assets that the DOD cannot afford to lose for now and future missions.
- We have not found a single current or recently retired fighter pilot (F-16 or otherwise) who puts any credibility in the ranking of Cannon lowest of 50 bases suitable for fighter operations in the United States. Quite the contrary, these individuals think it is one of the **BEST**.