

June 10, 2005

James D. Floyd  
1701 Arbor Drive  
Clovis, NM 88101-2305

505-762-5141  
floydj@yucca.net

The Honorable Philip Coyle  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22201

The Honorable Philip Coyle;

I am writing this letter in support of retaining Cannon Air Force Base, Clovis New Mexico.

Cannon has attributes that cannot be duplicated elsewhere. Cannon has a bombing range within minutes of the air base. It also has significant airspace and an electronic warfare range. Soon Cannon will have a supersonic range for the training of our 27<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing aviators, our New Mexico Air National Guard aviators, and others. The base can and has supported several squadrons of aircraft and equipment. Of significant importance, and one that does not seem to be a concern for our present Department of Defense, is that Cannon does not have encroachment issues that limit or prevent operations. To ensure unimpeded operations, local civic groups bought land and donated it to the Air Force.

Cannon also supports Guard and Reserve members from New Mexico and from the Lubbock Guard and Reserve Center. Guardsmen and Reservists visit Cannon for training events and other support.

Cannon serves many active and retired National Guard and Reserve members and their families in eastern New Mexico and west Texas. Cannon is the only active duty military facility within reach for many retired military veterans and their families. If Cannon were to be closed, the impact on these veterans and their families would be significant. I have personally experienced a base closure. I also saw the result of a BRAC/conversion at Cannon in 1996. Cannon had more than 100 F-111 aircraft. Two years later, in 1998, a second reduction was experienced as Cannon retired the USAFs only electronic warfare fighter, the EF-111. These conversions collectively, were painful to the community as Cannon lost approximately two thousand military members and their families.

Cannon was then tasked to host three squadrons of USAF F-16s, and after the EF-111s departed, were joined by the Republic of Singapore Air Force with their F-16s. There is a huge ramp area for many aircraft. Further, there are extensive hangar facilities

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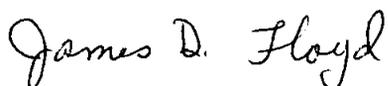
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Further, it appears that the DoD did not consider installations/facilities and their capabilities/constraints, but rather took a shallow approach in selecting installations based on their currently possessed fleet/equipment. They should have developed a plan that ensured we kept the best installations for our present fleet/equipment, regardless of where it may be currently positioned, with an eye to the future for proposed fleets. We should not be closing one of our most capable installations, of which Cannon Air Force Base is a model for military value and capabilities.

Closure of Cannon would also devastate the economies of eastern New Mexico communities. One has only to visit Roswell, where Walker closed in 1967 to see what could happen here. It is not a success story. New Mexico is already one of the poorest states in the union. The DoD, for whatever reason, has greatly under-estimated the economic impact on the state. The closure of Cannon would likely take more than 30% of the economy with it. I read the DoD home page relative to BRAC. The success stories are few, and one wouldn't be in eastern New Mexico. Eastern New Mexico has already survived major reductions that resulted from a previous BRAC, and a second in the subsequent retirement of the EF-111. The people of eastern New Mexico understand the economic ramifications of BRAC. It took the economy more than six years to recover, and this time the effect would be terminal. Devastation of the economy looms large for eastern New Mexico.

The local community supports Cannon fully. They also bought and donated land adjacent to the base for a very fine military housing area. The community has also provided fine housing areas in both Clovis and Portales. The local community is military-friendly and the people of eastern New Mexico and west Texas continue to support Cannon and Cannon's military families.

Thanks for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James D. Floyd". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

James D. Floyd, CMSgt, USAF, Retired

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The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22201

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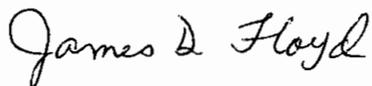
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General James T. Hill  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22201

General;

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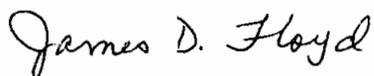
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Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr.  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22201

Admiral;

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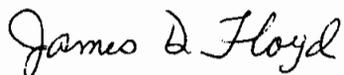
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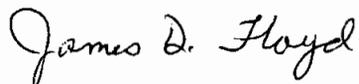
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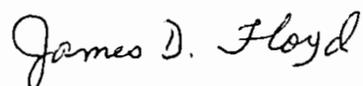
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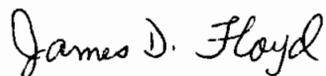
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The local community supports Cannon fully. They also bought and donated land adjacent to the base for a very fine military housing area. The community has also provided fine housing areas in both Clovis and Portales. The local community is military-friendly and the people of eastern New Mexico and west Texas continue to support Cannon and Cannon's military families.

Thanks for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James D. Floyd".

James D. Floyd, CMSgt, USAF, Retired

June 10, 2005

James D. Floyd  
1701 Arbor Drive  
Clovis, NM 88101-2305

505-762-5141  
floydj@yucca.net

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22201

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi;

I am writing this letter in support of retaining Cannon Air Force Base, Clovis New Mexico.

Cannon has attributes that cannot be duplicated elsewhere. Cannon has a bombing range within minutes of the air base. It also has significant airspace and an electronic warfare range. Soon Cannon will have a supersonic range for the training of our 27<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing aviators, our New Mexico Air National Guard aviators, and others. The base can and has supported several squadrons of aircraft and equipment. Of significant importance, and one that does not seem to be a concern for our present Department of Defense, is that Cannon does not have encroachment issues that limit or prevent operations. To ensure unimpeded operations, local civic groups bought land and donated it to the Air Force.

Cannon also supports Guard and Reserve members from New Mexico and from the Lubbock Guard and Reserve Center. Guardsmen and Reservists visit Cannon for training events and other support.

Cannon serves many active and retired National Guard and Reserve members and their families in eastern New Mexico and west Texas. Cannon is the only active duty military facility within reach for many retired military veterans and their families. If Cannon were to be closed, the impact on these veterans and their families would be significant. I have personally experienced a base closure. I also saw the result of a BRAC/conversion at Cannon in 1996. Cannon had more than 100 F-111 aircraft. Two years later, in 1998, a second reduction was experienced as Cannon retired the USAFs only electronic warfare fighter, the EF-111. These conversions collectively, were painful to the community as Cannon lost approximately two thousand military members and their families.

Cannon was then tasked to host three squadrons of USAF F-16s, and after the EF-111s departed, were joined by the Republic of Singapore Air Force with their F-16s. There is a huge ramp area for many aircraft. Further, there are extensive hangar facilities

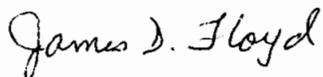
available. Cannon has supported Operation Roving Sands many times, supporting Air Force, Navy, Marine, Army, and Guard aviation units to include fixed wing and helicopter units. Cannon does not have noise constraints that often limit training at many bases in the US and abroad. This appears to be another issue that our DoD didn't consider. As noted above, with the nearby ranges and airspace, coupled with near limitless flying weather, Cannon could be used for around-the-clock flying operations. The capabilities for multiple operations are also present. Cannon, with its expansive space, does not endanger the civilian populace. In the event of mishap, the military wouldn't have collateral damage issues that exist at most, if not all, of the DoDs proposed magnet bases.

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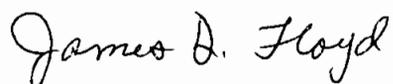
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