

RECEIVED
5/23/05
KJ

208 Keyes Drive
Ruidoso, New Mexico
88345

May 20, 2005

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

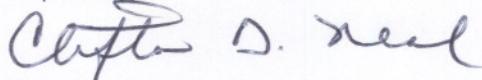
Dear: The Honorable Anthony J. Principi; The Honorable James H. Bilbray; The Honorable Philip Coyle; Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr.; The Honorable James V. Hansen; General James T. Hill; General Lloyd W. Newton; The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner; and Brigadier General Sue E. Turner.

I would ask that you continue to allow CANNON AFB to remain open. I attended ENMU in Portales and spent much time in Clovis working. Presently, I have a daughter attending ENMU and have 3 more children graduating the next three years that will be attending ENMU. I would pray the base remain open. May God Bless!

Listed below are some key points for consideration:

- Cannon does not fit the criteria provided for base closure.
- The base has an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues. This provides for safer and more realistic training scenarios for pilots.
- Once the New Mexico Training Range Initiative is implemented, we will be able to offer pilots the ability to fly supersonic during training missions. This is a very important point, as it allows the Air Force to better train for real-life situations.
- The weather in Eastern New Mexico provides year round training ability.
- The Melrose bombing range is seconds from the end of the runway at Cannon. This allows pilots to get airborne, and immediately begin training operations over the bombing range, rather than spending all of their fuel just to get to the range, having one pass over, then returning to the base.
- Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war-fighting, training, and readiness as was evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy.
- Cannon has ample space/ramp space to accommodate surge force requirements in training and emergency situations.
- The availability of air space and ideal flying weather makes Cannon the perfect candidate to support future training missions for the F-22, Joint Strike Fighter, and other military aircraft.
- Cannon has won countless awards, both on ACC level, Air Force and NAF levels, and national and STAT levels. [Click here for a list of the awards Cannon has received.](#)
- The relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and the surrounding towns; Clovis, Portales, West Texas, and others, is unlike any other installation in the country.
- Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, West Texas (including Amarillo and Lubbock) are home to a large military retiree population. These people rely on Cannon Air Force base for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close by to serve our retired military.

Respectfully,



Clifton D. Neal

Ruidoso Middle School

