

DCN: 2395

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06072005

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

May 31, 2005

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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.

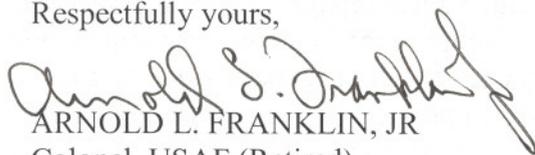
As a former Wing Commander at Cannon (1990—1992), I know first hand what an important role Cannon and Melrose Range have played in making our United States Air Force second to none. When you combine the excellent flying weather, the outstanding air space and range accessibility, the modern base facilities, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)