

RICHARD A. HAUPTMANN

304 East 17th Street
Portales, New Mexico 88130
(505) 356-0964
rhauptmann@yucca.net

May 22, 2005

The Honorable Philip Coyle
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Coyle:

I am writing to you to protest the decision by the U.S. Department of Defense to close Cannon Air Force Base in Eastern New Mexico. I believe that Cannon does not fit the criteria for closure for the following reasons:

- 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, the base 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 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.
- The relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and the surrounding towns including Clovis, Portales, and many others in Eastern New Mexico and West Texas, is unlike any other installation in the country.
- Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, and 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 the area's retired military families.



- Finally, the closure of Cannon Air Force Base will cost the local area over 20% of its jobs and devastate the local economy. No other base closure, as presently contemplated, will have as severe an adverse effect on its local economy as the proposed closure of Cannon.

Please keep this information in mind while you review the proposal to close Cannon Air Force Base. I would be happy to discuss this situation further, if you so desire.

Very truly yours,

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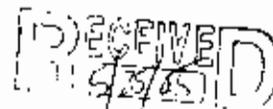
The Honorable Anthony J. Principi

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

Dear Mr. Principi:

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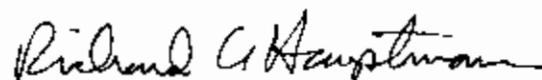


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Brigadier General Sue E. Turner
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear General Turner:

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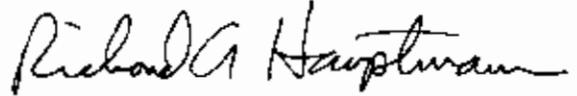
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The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Skinner:

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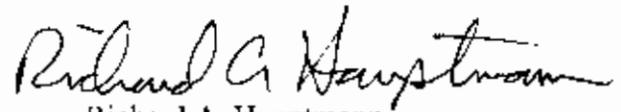
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The Honorable James H. Bilbray
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Arlington, VA 22202

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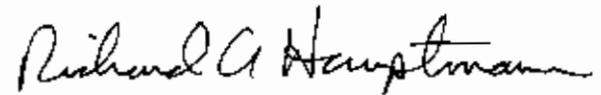
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The Honorable James V. Hansen
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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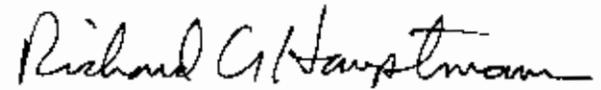
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Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr.
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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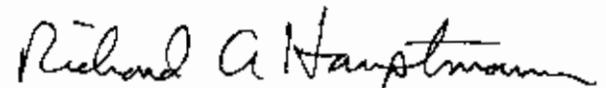
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