

May 27, 2005

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

Dear Admiral Gehman, Jr.:

I am very concerned about the Department of Defense's recommendation that Cannon Air Force Base should be closed.

I want to help make the Commission fully aware of the unique attributes that Cannon offers to our national defense. These include unencroached airspace suitable for training at supersonic speed, many new and existing facilities suitable for joint training exercises, and a low-cost environment that promotes cost-efficient training. Cannon is a real asset to the country's armed forces. More reasons I believe make Cannon a valuable base.

- 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.
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- 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.
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- Cannon has ample space/ramp space to accommodate surge force requirements in training and emergency situations.
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- 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.

Whether or not Cannon's military value has been recognized yet in Washington, out here we really appreciate the base. The local community has been uniquely supportive, donating time and land to promote the base's needs. We have also welcomed the personnel. There are bases that are not welcome in their states, Cannon is not one of them.

The closure of Cannon will also have a devastating impact on our economy. It has been estimated that the area will lose at least 20 percent of its workforce, a percentage out of line with the effect of base closings in other communities. Cannon is critical for us.

I invite you to come personally to the Cannon hearing in Clovis. I ask you please to reconsider Cannon's importance to the nation and to my community. Please, let us KEEP CANNON!

Sincerely,



Brad Belcher
909 W. Manana
Clovis N.M. 88101

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W, 27, 1984

The Honorable James W. Hansen,
PRAC Commissioner
151 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Hansen:

I am very concerned about the Department of Defense's recommendation that Cannon Air Force Base should be closed.

I want to help make the Commission fully aware of the unique attributes that Cannon offers to our national defense. Cannon has a tremendous amount of airspace suitable for training at supersonic speed, very new and existing facilities suitable for combat training exercises, and a low-cost environment that promotes cost-effectiveness. Cannon is a critical asset to the country's armed forces. My reasons I believe make Cannon a valuable asset.

- The Y-1200 bombing range is located 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 research as was evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy.
- Cannon has ample space/ramp space to accommodate large logistic requirements in training and emergency situations.
- The availability of the space and ideal flying weather makes Cannon the perfect candidate to support future training missions for the F-12, A-10, G-37, A-7, and other military aircraft.

Whether or not you are a military aviator has nothing to do with your being in Washington, but here we do appreciate the fact that the local community has been uniquely supportive, donating time and land to promote the base's needs. We have also welcomed the personnel. In the Air Base that is not well known in their states, Cannon is not one of them.

The closure of Cannon will also have a devastating impact on our economy. It has been estimated that the area will lose at least 10 percent of its workforce, a percentage out of line with the effect of base closure in other communities. Cannon is critical for us.

I invite you to come personally to the Cannon hearing in Clovis. I ask you to please consider our ongoing mission to the Nation and to my community. Please call me: GTP/CANNON.

Sincerely,

Bob Bell

Bill Bell, Rep.
93 W. Main
Clovis, N.M. 86901

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