



DCN 3128
New Mexico State Senate

State Capitol
Santa Fe

COMMITTEES:

MEMBER:
• Education
• Conservation

SENATOR WILLIAM E. SHARER

R-San Juan-1

P.O. Box 203
Farmington, NM 87499

June 20, 2005



Office: (505) 325-5055
Home: (505) 564-8640
Fax: (505) 327-9167

Chairman Anthony J. Principi
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S Clark St
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I fully understand the need to save money in the military budget. However, I strongly believe that Cannon AFB in New Mexico offers several significant and cost efficient benefits.

First, Cannon AFB appears to be perfectly suited to meet both the current and potential future requirements of the armed forces. Cannon AFB is within realistic mission range of many army training facilities in New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado. This offers excellent joint training opportunities and greatly enhances the readiness of both services. The weather in this area assures a maximum number of operational days.

Further, because of the relatively sparse population in east central New Mexico, this area offers the potential for both low-level and supersonic operations. Again, easily within operational range our forces can train over desert, heavy forest and mountain terrain with minimal disturbance to the any people or live stock.

The close proximity of Melrose Bombing Range provides a highly cost efficient training experience for our air crews. This added tactical training could very well save many American lives.

As important as the value of the military training, is the cost of housing our service members. Clovis offers very affordable housing and all the amenities expected by our men and women. Additionally, the citizens of Clovis and New Mexico in general have a genuine love and respect for our military.

Cannon AFB meets all the requirements for strong military preparedness and national security. I vigorously urge you to consider keeping this most flexible and militarily effective base open.

Sincerely,

William Sharer