

June 9, 2005

**BRAC Commission  
Received**  
6/23/2005

The Honorable James H. Bilbray  
The BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

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

Cannon Air Force Base has many attributes, when weighed should help factor the aspect that our nation needs to keep Cannon operational. The first aspect that this base has is the lack of encroachment. Many bases located in larger cities have this problem. While the city of Clovis, with cooperation of Roosevelt and Curry Counties donated land to the Air Force to avoid this issue, other cities continue to encroach and place restrictions on military flights. Cannon also offers the ability to have supersonic training and almost immediate access to the Melrose Bombing range from take off. I would also like to point out that Cannon has two operational runways and a unique ability to work with other branches of the military. Recently there were exercises conducted with the Navy. Cannon also has the unique presence in the community. The fire fighting units aid the local fire department putting out large brush fires. The bomb-squad helps our local police with the search and disarmament of incendiary devices.

These services, along with a deep appreciation of the communities of Clovis and Portales, forge a strong and intertwined bond between the communities and the base. This relationship has been cultured and developed over many decades. We have many retired veterans and dependants who rely on access to the base for medical and other needs. If this base were to close it would have a greatly negative impact on our communities. Many families would be forced to drive several hundred miles or relocate if the base were to close. Cannon Air Force Base is an important part of our community and our National defense.

With the loss of Cannon, the Air Force will be losing a vital and award winning wing. The weather, community support, and unique capacity of all involved will leave a large hole in our military structure. Cannon AFB also is a fantastic base for training. With excellent weather and an open community, Clovis and Portales welcomed the Taiwanese AF and their families while training at Cannon.

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 ask you to please reconsider Cannon's importance to the nation and to my community. Please, let us KEEP CANNON!

Sincerely,

Rex R. Regnier  
Clovis, NM Resident

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

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

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General Lloyd W. Newton  
The BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
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General James T. Hill  
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Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.  
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