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JUNE 11, 2005

BRAC Commission  
2521 S. CLARK STREET, SUITE 600  
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

RE: Cannon AFB, Clovis, NM

GENTLEMEN:

I AM 78 YEARS OLD AND A VETERAN OF WORLD WAR 2, SO I'VE BEEN AROUND A WHILE. I'M A RETIRED STRUCTURAL ENGINEER WHO WORKED FOR DANIEL MANNS, JOHNSON AND MENDELL IN LOS ANGELES FOR 17 YEARS, WHERE I WAS INVOLVED WITH THE AIR FORCE FOR BOTH OUR COUNTRY'S DEFENSE PROGRAMS AND SPACE PROGRAMS.

ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF CANNON WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT CLOVIS AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES, I BELIEVE, <sup>MORE IMPORTANTLY,</sup> THAT THE DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY OF OUR COUNTRY WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY REDUCED WITH THE CLOSURE. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT CANNON HAS PERFORMED WELL IN TRAINING OUR PILOTS AND PROVIDING AIR COVER AS WELL AS OFFENSIVE STRIKES IN OUR VARIOUS MILITARY INVOLVEMENTS, INCLUDING IRAQ.

THE FACILITIES AT CANNON ARE TOP-NOTCH AND THE AIR SPACE AND BOMBING TEST RANGE, AS WELL AS

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THE YEAR-ROUND WEATHER CONDITIONS CAN'T BE BEAT. THE APPRECIATION OF THE CANNON COMMUNITY BY CLOVIS LIKEWISE IS THE GREATEST.

I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT HAVING AIR FORCE BASES THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTRY PROVIDED US WITH GREAT SECURITY. THUS, ELIMINATING ONE OF THE MOST EFFICIENT BASES MAKES NO SENSE. THE "WAR AGAINST TERROR" IS ENHANCED WITH DISPERSED AIR FORCE BASES AND OTHER MILITARY FACILITIES. ALTHOUGH CLOVIS IS WELL-POPULATED, IT HAS THE ADDED STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE OF NOT BEING NEAR A HIGHLY POPULATED CITY.

I URGE YOU TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL OF THE VERY POSITIVE ASSETS OF CANNON AND REMOVE IT FROM THE BASE REMOVAL LIST. IN MY OPINION WE ARE NEEDED CANNON AS A MILITARY ASSET!

As I MENTIONED AT THE BEGINNING, I'VE WORKED WITH THE AIR FORCE, PRIMARILY IN THE SPACE PROGRAM AND DEFENSE. I FIRST DESIGNED TEST STANDS IN BOTH SYCAMORE CANYON, SAN DIEGO AND SANTA SUSANA (WITH ROCKETDYNE) IN LOS ANGELES. AT THE OUTSET THE ENGINES HAD ONLY 600,000# OF THRUST, BUT WE WERE DESIGNING FOR A 1,000,000#. I'VE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE LAUNCH FACILITIES AT VANDERBURG AFB. I DESIGNED MANY OF THE LAUNCH/TEST FACILITIES

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AT CAPE CANAVERAL, I WAS PRESENT AT THE FIRST SHOT AT THE MOON. I'VE VISITED REDSTONE ARSENAL AND DESIGNED A TEST FACILITY AT WARMOPS ISLAND, VA. I'VE ALSO BEEN INVOLVED WITH FACILITIES AT ELMANDERF AFB IN ALASKA AND ADAPTATION OF FACILITIES FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM. INCLUDED IN THE CAPE CANAVERAL FACILITIES ~~was~~ WAS THE BLAST-RESISTANT BLOCKHOUSE.

TO A LESSER DEGREE, I WAS INVOLVED WITH OUR LAUNCH SILOS DISPERSED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, BUT TO A GREATER DEGREE WITH THE HARDENING OF SUCH FACILITIES. I'VE ALSO DESIGNED A HUMAN CENTRIFUGE AT LOS ALAMOS NM.

THE ONLY PURPOSE OF LISTING THE ABOVE WAS TO EMPHASIZE THAT I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE AIR FORCE AND APPRECIATE THEM AND THEIR VARIOUS MISSIONS TO PROTECT US ALL, AND DO CONSIDER THE IMPORTANCE OF SUCH.

I BELIEVE THAT SAC (AND THE UNDERGROUND FACILITIES IN COLORADO) IS STILL IMPORTANT TO US ALL. I RECENTLY READ THAT NORAD MAY BE (OR PERHAPS HAS BEEN) DECLARED OBSOLETE; I'M NOT SO SURE.

THANK YOU FOR READING MY LETTER. HOPEFULLY YOU'LL REMOVE CANON FROM THE CLOSURE LIST FOR THE ~~BENEFIT~~ OF US ALL.

YOURS, James P. Cassidy

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