

May 20, 2005

Angela Ayers  
1024 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St.  
Portales, NM 88130

The Honorable James V Hansen,

PLEASE don't close Cannon Air Force Base.

The consequences of closing Cannon Air Force Base would only be negative. There is no plus side. I moved my family here to raise my children because of the type of community the Portales/Clovis area has to offer. Closing Cannon Air Force Base would have many drastic consequences to our area. We recently became established as a microplex which counts the population in all of the surrounding communities, including Cannon, and gives us a larger population total. This has allowed many new businesses to move into our area, i.e., Lowe's Home Improvement Center, Chili's Restaurant, Applebee's Restaurant, etc. Someone is also building a new cheese plant which will employ hundreds. These are things our area has needed. There has actually been a housing shortage in our town which has started people building new homes, new apartment complexes, etc. Eastern New Mexico University was moving forward with plans to build new housing for students. If Cannon closes, we will lose our newfound status, lose any more new businesses coming here, and possibly lose some of the ones that just recently opened. Apartment complex owners will have empty apartments. Our town will have empty storefronts.

On the other hand, Cannon Air Force Base would be a great place to enlarge. The weather in eastern New Mexico allows for year-round training. The Melrose Bombing Range is seconds away from Cannon. Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint warfare training and readiness. 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.

Please reconsider all the facts before making your final decision.

Sincerely,

Angela Ayers

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5/25/05

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Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.

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General Lloyd W. Newton,

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General James T Hill,

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The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner,

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The Honorable Philip Coyle

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The Honorable James H. Bilbray,

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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi,

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REC'D  
RIS/15/05