

Nathan T. Titus, Col, (USAF, Ret)
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San Antonio, TX 78256
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5/26/05

The Honorable James H. Bilbray
Member, BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St. Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

May 21, 2005

Dear Mr. Bilbray,

The purpose of this letter is to express my opinion on the proposed closure of Cannon AFB in the current BRAC round. I am shocked that Cannon is being considered for closure based on my expert knowledge having been stationed there during 1977-80, 1983-86 and 1990-97 as an F-111 pilot, Commander and Senior Officer. In the mid nineties, I Commanded the Operational Support Squadron (OSS), retired the F-111 and helped transition from the F-111 to the F-16. As the OSS Commander, I owned all flying related support activities including Melrose Bombing Range, Tower, RAPCON, runways, simulators and Military Operations Areas (Airspace). During my 13 years at Cannon, I watched and actively participated in the upgrade and improvement of almost every facility on base as well as Melrose Range and the attendant airspace. I believe I have the expertise to comment on the military value of Cannon both as a fighter pilot and a fighter wing facilities expert.

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Speaking of the Clovis Community, there is no better relationship between an Air Force Base and its civilian community. The people of Clovis are completely unified in their support for Cannon and have been for the last 50 years. They have worked diligently for the last many decades to make sure this relationship is as strong as it can be. Certainly there are other examples of good community relationships (Shaw has an excellent one), but Cannon heads the list and has a track record to prove it. This community relationship only enhances the overall military value of Cannon.

I don't believe the Air Force should give up any of its tactical fighter wings, but if a base has to go, it should be closed based on its utility for the future, not the politics of the present. Shaw & Seymour Johnson would be comparable to Cannon based on their size and mission. While

stationed at Shaw as the 9AF Director of Operations, I also became intimately familiar with its capabilities and community. Comparing Shaw to Cannon based on current and future military value has Shaw coming up short in many important areas critical to tactical training. Seymour-Johnson has similar problems especially with airspace and low-level routes. The East and Southeast bases all have the same problems- encroachment and population. It will only get worse with time.

My interest in the matter is based on concern for my Country, and my Air Force. As you can see from my address I live in Texas now, but I have my Son (KC-10 pilot), Daughter (F-16 Mx officer) and Son-in-Law (F-16 Pilot) all serving their county and worry about these kind of decisions. I have seen too many politically based decisions hurt the Air Force because they were too short sighted. For example, retiring the EF-111 based on the whims of a General Officer and now we are spending \$2.4B to outfit the B-52 as a "jammer" to try and replace the EF-111. Statistics are often skewed to sell the desired outcome of a small group of "well meaning" people to the long-term detriment of the greater good. In the case of Cannon, I am confident that if the truth is told without bias and regard to individual agendas, that the true military value of Cannon will rule the day and the Air Force will retain a critical Fighter Wing for the future. Its not about the specific aircraft that's stationed there, its about having a place to train our future fighter force that offers daily, realistic training. I implore you to reconsider the decision to place Cannon on BRAC list and keep it for the future of our United States Air Force.

If I can be of assistance on this important matter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

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General Lloyd W. Newton (USAF, Ret.)
Member, BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St. Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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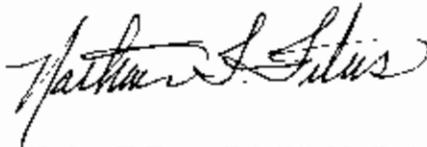
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Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr. (USN, Ret.)
Member, BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St. Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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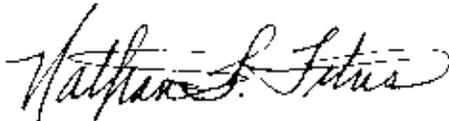
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Brigadier General Sue E. Turner (USAF, Ret.)
Member, BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St. Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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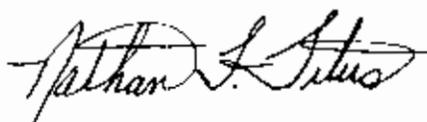
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The Honorable Philip Coyle
Member, BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St. Ste. 600
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May 21, 2005

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The Honorable James V. Hansen
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The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner
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If I can be of assistance on this important matter, please don't hesitate to contact me

Respectfully,



Nathan T. Titus, Col, (USAF, Ret)

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5/24/05

Nathan T. Titus, Col, (USAF, Ret)
137 Yaupon Trail
San Antonio, TX 78256
210-698-3780
chexsix@mac.com

General James T. Hill (USA, Ret.)
Member, BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St. Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

May 21, 2005

Dear General Hill,

The purpose of this letter is to express my opinion on the proposed closure of Cannon AFB in the current BRAC round. I am shocked that Cannon is being considered for closure based on my expert knowledge having been stationed there during 1977-80, 1983-86 and 1990-97 as an F-111 pilot, Commander and Senior Officer. In the mid nineties, I Commanded the Operational Support Squadron (OSS), retired the F-111 and helped transition from the F-111 to the F-16. As the OSS Commander, I owned all flying related support activities including Melrose Bombing Range, Tower, RAPCON, runways, simulators and Military Operations Areas (Airspace). During my 13 years at Cannon, I watched and actively participated in the upgrade and improvement of almost every facility on base as well as Melrose Range and the attendant airspace. I believe I have the expertise to comment on the military value of Cannon both as a fighter pilot and a fighter wing facilities expert.

As a place to train realistically and tactically, the flying amenities that Cannon offers are without parallel. It is quite simply a complete training package with range, airspace, low level routes, runways, hangars, maintenance facilities, housing, hospital and other base facilities that meet the complete needs of training in tactical aircraft. New Mexico's vast open spaces and low population density are impossible to beat in the lower tier states and the City of Clovis offers no encroachment issues like so many other of Air Combat Command's (ACC) bases. I have flown and trained out of virtually all of ACC's other bases over the years and none of them offer the complete training capabilities of Cannon. Talk to any pilot who has flown out of Luke, or Nellis AFB for example- there is no comparison. Clovis and its leadership have gone out of their way to ensure encroachment will not be an issue today, or in the future.

Speaking of the Clovis Community, there is no better relationship between an Air Force Base and its civilian community. The people of Clovis are completely unified in their support for Cannon and have been for the last 50 years. They have worked diligently for the last many decades to make sure this relationship is as strong as it can be. Certainly there are other examples of good community relationships (Shaw has an excellent one), but Cannon's heads the list and has a track record to prove it. This community relationship only enhances the overall military value of Cannon.

I don't believe the Air Force should give up any of its tactical fighter wings, but if a base has to go, it should be closed based on its utility for the future, not the politics of the present. Shaw & Seymour Johnson would be comparable to Cannon based on their size and mission. While

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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St. Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

May 21, 2005

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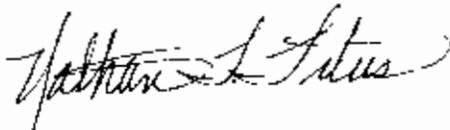
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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nathan T. Titus". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Nathan T. Titus, Col, (USAF, Ret)