

DCN 1433

1 June 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Bill F. Bullion
5 Fox Hollow
Edwardsville, IL 62025

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Dear Mr. Principi:

First, it is an honor and a privilege to write this letter to you as I am also a Navy Veteran – 1965 to 1969 serving in Viet Nam during '68 -'69 Qui Nhon Market Time Operations.

I am writing to you to voice my concerns over the BRAC closure list, specifically Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis, New Mexico. As a former resident of Clovis and graduate of Eastern New Mexico University in Portales I feel that the BRAC is making a grave mistake in this proposed closure action.

The area residents, City, County and State Governments of New Mexico are extremely concerned about the economic effects and outfall of the proposed closure, of which I also share their concerns for the future of the area. I also have a strong concern of the loss of Cannon to our military machine. Cannon and its future should be considered very strategic to our military and in its long range planning.

If Cannon is closed, our military will lose an extremely well situated facility that cannot be easily replaced, economically or physically. Cannon has the capability and flexibility to serve all branches of the military as a support base and training facility.

Training is critical to the readiness of all military programs. Training promotes efficiencies, eliminates mistakes, saves money and most important of all – it saves lives. Our fighter pilots must continue to receive the best training available and a key factor to that is having a world class training facility. No other military base has immediate access to unencumbered air spaces such as the Melrose Bombing Range and the New Mexico Training Range that is being implemented, both immediately adjacent and accessible to Cannon year round. Both ranges are well suited to support aircraft of any type or service branch; Air Force, Navy, Marines or Army.

I urge you and your colleagues to review and re-consider the actions set forth by the BRAC. Please - Support our Troops - Keep Cannon. I wish you and your team well on your upcoming visit to Cannon and the Clovis area.

I would be glad to discuss this issue with you or anyone on the BRAC Commission; I can be contacted at (618) 692-3819 or at my office (314) 335-4357. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Bill Bullion