

May 20, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi,

This letter is in response to the proposed closing of Cannon Air Force Base.

I think Cannon AFB is a very vital attribute to the economy in the surrounding areas, including, but not limited to Clovis, Melrose, and Portales. Many jobs will be lost because of this closure and not to mention the impact that the military families leaving will have on the other business in the surrounding communities

Military spouses attend classes at Eastern New Mexico University and Clovis Community College and the enrollment would suffer if the base closes. Also, the public schools would be greatly impacted by the closure. Because of the military in the area, the community as a whole is very supportive and all the communities' relationship with Cannon Air Force Base is unlike any other in the country. The military is a positive thing in so many areas for Eastern New Mexico.

Cannon AFB is located in an area that would be perfect for pilots to have the ability to fly supersonic during training missions as there is an abundance of air space. The Melrose bombing range is just seconds away and the weather in eastern New Mexico is perfect for year-around training.

Eastern New Mexico has the space to expand and we are not a crowded area. To expand the base would only be positive, but to close the base would be devastating to our community.

I ask that you please reconsider the closure of Cannon Air Force Base as it is a vital part to all of the surrounding communities.

Respectfully yours,

Norma Stroik

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The Brigadier General Sue E. Turner,

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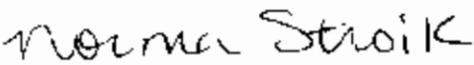
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The Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr.,

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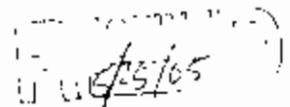
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