

18 May 2005

BRAC commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Va., 22202

To all BRAC Commissioners,

Let me start off by letting you know a little bit about me and the company I work for. My name is Michael Rael, and I work for a family ran local construction company (Nick Griego and Sons Construction, Inc.) here in **Clovis, New Mexico**. We have been in business for approximately thirty four years. My great grandfather started the business and my grandfather, Nick Griego Sr., took it from there. Along with my grandfather I have five uncles that are owners of Nick Griego and Sons Construction, Inc. I have worked for this construction company for twelve years, and I am currently a Quality Control Manager on **Cannon Air Force Base**. We have completed some highly advanced, current with technology projects on this base in the last ten or so years. This base has a new Security Force Operation Center that has just completed and a highly advanced Flight Simulator Building, which to my understanding both of these facilities are one of the best in this area. There is also a new top of the line Fire Station that has just been completed this last year. This is just to name a few of the many great facilities that are here at Cannon Air Force Base. What I'm trying to get at is, there are extraordinary facilities that are here at **Cannon Air Force Base**, along with many different benefits this Base has to offer that others can not. I just think it would be a shame if they are not used for their intended purpose and in a benefit for the United States Military.

Along with the facilities mentioned above, we have **unlimited air space** for sortie training. Again, my understanding is that unlimited air space is of real importance for training purposes for the military. I believe that is one of the many crucial benefits that have to help **Cannon Air Force Base** remain operating. In addition to the air space, we have a near by **Bombing Range** that is one of the best, and is around forty five miles from the **Cannon Air Force Base's** location. Those few miles are saving a lot on the fuel cost for training, and I am sure it saves millions of dollars. Also I believe this Bombing Range to be one of only four located in the United States. I just cannot conceive the thought of closing such a strategic Air Force Base, which is so closely located to this Bombing Range, and has the unlimited air space. The State of New Mexico is also about to let this air space be used for **Super Sonic Speed Training**, which is one of a few if not the only air space available to accommodate this type of training. This is a huge benefit for all branches of the United States Military and is of a great need.

**Cannon Air Force Base** also has the **capabilities of expanding** in any direction if needed, which other bases that are not on the list or are realigning on the list have little to no land for expansion. There is unlimited land in all directions which makes this Base a real asset to the military. There are some awesome runways located on this Base, which I am proud to say we (Nick Griego and Sons Construction, Inc.) has been apart of constructing. We have a new ILS system that is scheduled for completion in September of this current year along with an Approach Lighting project that makes this runway one of the most up to date in technology in the military.

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**Cannon Air Force Base** just has some incredible assets that are real beneficial to the military and the direction it is going in

According to Branch Leaders, the number one criteria for the creation of the BRAC list is military value, and **Cannon Air Force Base** meets and exceeds this criteria along with other criteria that is imposed for selection. We have endless expansion capabilities, top of the line facilities, a near by Bombing Range, Super Sonic Speed Training, and unlimited air space available. These are all great needs and it is all here at **Cannon Air Force Base**. Not to mention, the weather is favorable for the flight training that is needed in all branches of the military. These benefits should make the military value of **Cannon Air Force Base** exceed any other. Again, **Cannon Air Force Base** is a very valuable and important part of the Air Force's future, and we need to keep this Base in operation.

On the community effect, it will be extremely devastating to have this wonderful base be shut down. There will approximately be forty eight hundred plus jobs lost, which accounts for twenty to twenty five percent of the work force in Clovis, New Mexico and surrounding areas. This community would take a mighty blow that is just unimaginable. **Cannon Air Force Base** is the heart of Clovis and surrounding communities, and closure of this Base would just be damaging. I just believe that the facts will show that keeping **Cannon Air Force Base** open is very crucial and well needed for the future of the United States Military. Again thoroughly look at the benefits that **Cannon Air Force Base** has to offer and make the right decision of keeping this extraordinary Base in operation. Thanks

Sincerely,

Michael Rael

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