



COUNTY OF OCHILTREE
KENNETH R. DONAHUE
COUNTY JUDGE

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June 1, 2005

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BRAC Commission
2521 So. Clark St., Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

I am writing in response to the announcement that Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico is on the list to potentially be closed. The following factors are important to consider about why Cannon should be removed from the potential closing list.

- Consider the economic impact of Clovis and the surrounding communities, including Amarillo and Lubbock, would be affected tremendously.
- The consequence of loss of resources to thousands of retired military families that live in Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, and West Texas would be devastating. These people rely on Cannon for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close to serve our retired military.
- Consider the strategic response time for protection of the BWXT Pantex, Bell Helicopter and all other heavy industrial facilities in the surrounding area.
- Cannon Air Force Base is a top notch facility with plenty of space for expansion and is an approved base for super sonic flight. The abundance of air space and lack of encroachment issues provide safe and realistic training scenarios for pilots.
- The relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and the surrounding cities, Clovis, Portales, and many West Texas cities, is unlike any other installation in the country.

In summary, the Clovis and surrounding communities have reached out and supported the base like no other community financially, morally, spiritually, and above all, consistently over the past 50 years. I know that you are faced with a difficult assignment, but please consider the points listed above and remove Cannon Air Force Base from the potential closing list under consideration.

Respectfully,