

JUL 13 2005

Received

OPERATION KEEP CANNON

To the distinguished BRAC committee,

We are the communities of Curry and Roosevelt County that have had the honor of having Cannon Air Force Base a part of our community for more than 50 years. There are many reasons that Cannon should NOT be on the BRAC list.

Some of the things are the abundance of air space, void of any encroachment issues. The future use of super sonic fly space, the fabulous weather that permits a year round training ability, In addition, the Melrose bombing range is seconds from the end of the runway at Cannon, which allows pilots to get airborne and immediately begin training operations over the bombing range, rather than spending all of their fuel just to get to the range, having one pass over, then returning to the base.

Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war fighting, training, and readiness as was evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy. Cannon has won countless awards, both on the ACC level, Air Force and NAF levels, and national and STAT levels.

In the early 90's, Curry County, in conjunction with the state of New Mexico purchased air easements around Cannon Air Force Base and GAVE them to the Air Force. This was done to protect that air space from encroachments and was an important issue for the Air Force as it is today. The local community purchased land North of Cannon Air Force Base and GAVE it back to the Air Force for additional housing, now known as Chavez Manor. Within the last few years, our community purchased land west of Cannon and GAVE it back to the Air Force for the installation of instrument lighting on the alternate runway at the base.

As hopefully you will personally witness, the relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and the surrounding towns: Clovis, Portales, Lubbock, Amarillo and many others is UNLIKE ANY OTHER INSTALLATION IN THE COUNTRY. These towns are home to large military retiree populations which rely on Cannon Air Force Base for healthcare, grocery shopping and more.

Our community has reached out and supported the base like no other community over the past 50 years. We've done so financially, morally, spiritually and above all, consistently. We are proud, honored and blessed to have Cannon Air Force Base and will stand behind it and everything it stands for every step of the way.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Smith
 I am the wife of Richard L. Smith, retired AF after 23 years 9 months of service (1974). We decided to stay in Clovis NM to be near Cannon AFB. All 4 of our sons graduated from Clovis schools. This is Home - please think of the troops deployed and their families here at Home. Our prayers are with the commission and

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Dear BRAC Commissioners,

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My name is John E. Olivarez, I reside in Clovis, New Mexico the home of Cannon AFB. I am writing to request the commission take a long look at the facts of how Cannon AFB was placed on the BRAC list and why the base should remain open based on the criteria set forth for this process.

Originally when Cannon AFB was placed on the proposed closer list I wanted to immediately write the commission based on sentiment not facts. After the announcement the regional commissioners hearings would be conducted here in Clovis, I decided to wait until after to write you. Understanding what the BRAC process is theoretically supposed to accomplish; I wanted to write this letter on the basis of factual information and not personal feelings. Most Americans understand fiscal responsibility on both sides of the political parties but to keep this installation on the closure list would be a travesty.

During the hearing Mr. Randy Harris presented some major blunders the DoD did not account for or take in to consideration during their analysis. First is the fact Cannon AFB does have two runways NOT one. This would have to fall in the primary category of mission capability. Second a new Flight Control Tower and runway solely used for aircraft arriving and departing at Cannon AFB. Not a joint FAA tower and runway shared with commercial aircraft where near misses are frequent occurrences.

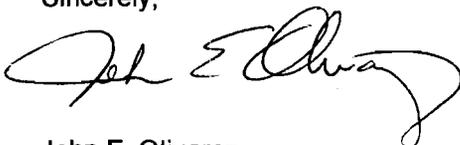
Third, the fact of availability of land, associated airspace and supersonic training was not correctly accounted for. During the presentation the fact that 370 acres NOT 5 acres are available for \$5 million dollars was brought to the attention of the commission. Look at other installations where the city has grown to the installations edge and where encroachment lawsuits are frequent. Cannon not only has associated airspace and soon to be available supersonic training but also land for ground training. As the commission is aware the Air Force has started convoy operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The space available to train these ground support troops is only surpassed by Army Installations where this type of training is commonplace.

If the need for joint service exercises needs to be accomplished look at Cannon's success in support of the annual Roving Sands exercise. Cannon is home to both the Navy and Marine Corps during this exercise; along with past uses by E-3 AWACS, C-130 and other joint fighter and support aircraft. This installation has housed not only aircraft, but also personnel.

While here in Clovis, six of you were able to see first hand how this town has embraced the men and women in the military but that is emotional and not factual. The fact is 20% to 30% of the jobs in this rural community would be lost. This isn't a major metropolitan where most former BRAC success stories are mentioned. These successes are reserved for areas like Austin, Denver or Sacramento. In fact we are more to the same size as cities that never recovered in population or fiscally such as Beeville, Texas (NAS Beeville), Selma, Alabama (Craig AFB) or Roswell, New Mexico (Walker AFB). I believe deeply in our nation and the BRAC process; but to remove Cannon Air Force Base after the facts were presented would be wrong.

I would like to take this time to thank you for taking on this monumental task and especially for holding the hearings hear in Clovis. May God Bless you and keep you during this process.

Sincerely,



John E. Olivarez

YMW

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BRAC Commissioner, Chairman Anthony Principi

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Please reconsider and take Cannon Air Force Base off the base closure list because:

KEY MILITARY FACTS:

- Abundance in air space with no encroachments
- Safer, more realistic training scenarios for all types of planes and missions
- Once implemented, supersonic flying through the N.M. Training Range Initiative
- Great year-round weather for flying conditions
- Melrose bombing range is seconds away
- New runways on the base—two runways, not just one
- Ample space and ramp space for surge force requirements
- Support of training missions for F-22, F-35, Joint Strike Fighter, etc.
- Award winning base on ACC, Air Force, and NAF levels
- A relationship like none other with the communities of Clovis, Portales, and the surrounding areas
- Large military retiree population within a 150 mile radius

KEY COMMUNITY FACTS:

- \$60 million expansion to Plains Regional Medical Center with new Heart, and Cancer Wings, 10,000 sq. ft. Rehab Center as well as the addition of 60+ new medical staff
- Expansions to Clovis Community College and Eastern NM University—classes offered on base
- New VA Clinic opened this year
- Expansion and new industry is providing job opportunities for spouses and children
- Many new housing developments are providing housing needs
- New restaurants, building suppliers, and retail businesses adding to the established base
- New Civic Center under construction for increased community events
- Military discounts offered by local businesses
- The best schools and teaching staff in NM
- A Christian-based community that is family oriented and caring
- Portales community was not considered in the economic impact of closure

Signed:

(Jud)
Fortunato Cordova

PS

Keep Cannon as I have been
a resident of Portales + Roosevelt County since
1939 Please Reconsider closing the base Thank you.

This letter will be copied to send to the following:

CC: Commissioner James Bilbrary
Commissioner Philip Coyle
Commissioner Adm. Harold W Gehman, Jr.
Commissioner Rep. James V Hansen
Commissioner Gen. James Hill
Commissioner Gen Lloyd "Fig" Newton
Commissioner Samuel K Skinner
Commissioner B.G. Sue Ellen Turner

CC: President George W. Bush
First Lady, Mrs. Laura Bush
Governor Bill Richardson
Senator Pete V. Domenici
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Rep. Tom Udall

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June 26, 2005

BRAC Commission
The Honorable Anthony J. Principi - Chairman

I understand that you were able to come to Clovis and see Cannon AFB for yourself and I'm sorry you missed a very good hearing. You have probably heard all of positive comments that were discussed about keeping Cannon AFB open and how much community is supporting Cannon.

I joined the AF in 1971. My first assignment was at Laughlin AFB, TX, my 2nd was at Elmendorf AFB, AK and my 3rd assignment was at Nellis AFB, NV. In 1981, my tour at Nellis was over and I headed to Langley AFB, VA for my next assignment. I remember driving through New Mexico and I wasn't impressed at all. Why anyone would live in that state? After Langley, I spent several years in Europe and I received orders to, you guessed it, Cannon AFB in May 1992. Oh boy, I was heading to New Mexico!

I have enjoyed each of my previous assignments and I came here with an open mind. It didn't take very long to realize that my first impression, several years earlier, was changing. This was my first experience in a community that truly welcomed the military. Any bad rumors that I had heard about Cannon and Clovis were quickly put to rest and I knew that this was the area that my family and I would retire in. I completed 22 years and I am now a civil service employee fighting to keep my job.

I could list several personal reasons for keeping Cannon open, but I know that you have to be concerned with the military value in making your decision. You have heard the strengths that Cannon provides to our overall national security and I know that other bases scheduled for closure might be equally important. Why are we going through this process at this time? Our military and civilian personnel are in a "Real War Period" and are in more demand at this time than we were during the "Cold War period". Any decision you support in closing a major installation at this time will not be able to be reversed later.

In the interest of our national security, please join the other commissioners and vote to keep Cannon AFB open. Your positive vote will ensure that we will receive a unanimous decision.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Chalker".

Dennis Chalker
3609 Earlmont
Clovis, NM 88101
dchalker@cox.net
505-763-1927

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BRAC Commission
The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner

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BRAC Commission
The Honorable James V. Hansen

Thank you for coming to Clovis on Friday. You listened to 90 minutes of positive comments about keeping Cannon AFB open. You saw the reception down Prince and Commerce streets and you personally witnessed how much community is supporting Cannon.

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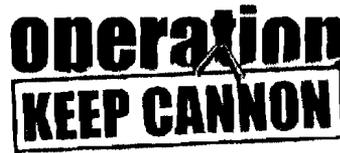
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Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr., (USN, Ret)

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BRAC Commission:

I am more than concerned about the Pentagon decision to close Cannon AFB. There appears to be information in the reports that are out of date. The reports are extremely difficult to interpret and are not as well laid out as the Army or Navy spreadsheets. The availability of land and airspace should not be given up so quickly by the DoD. Since Cannon is not encroached on like so many other DoD installations, I think the DoD should reconsider closing. You are our only hope to keep Cannon from closing.

The economic impact alone on the community will be devastating. Clovis had just begun to expand and bring in new businesses in the last 1-2 years. If Cannon is closed, it would hurt more than most people realize. I urge you to consider the community as well as military value. The base at Roswell NM was closed and the community has suffered a long hard struggle to regain its lost business and population.

Please save Cannon!!

Michael Poston
3904 Weston St
Clovis, NM 88101

Ninth Judicial District Family and Children's Court Services, Inc.

708 Mitchell Street • P.O. Box 1032 • Clovis, NM 88102-1032
Telephone (505) 769-2656 • Fax (505) 769-2644 • E-mail: fccs@plateautel.net
Curry/Roosevelt County CASA

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CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

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CASA Program Coordinator

Catharine H. Johnson

CASA Assistant

Cynthia Lindeman

Supervised Visitation

Coordinator

Crista A. Shaw

Office Manager

Crystal Clabaugh



The Honorable Mr. Anthony Principi
Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Thursday, July 07, 2005

Dear Sir:

Please express to the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission our immediate concern regarding the possible closure of Cannon Air Force Base. In addition to the severe economic impact that this proposed closure may have on our communities, the vitality of our agency to assist abused and neglected children will be significantly impacted.

Our Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program is made up of volunteers who are appointed by our judges to advocate for abused and neglected children enduring the Children's Court system in search of a permanent safe home. These particular children have been taken out of an abusive home, and are placed in foster care, and then become wards of the state. Our volunteer advocates monitor their case, and prepare and submit reports to the court to help the judges make decisions regarding their permanent fate whether it be reunification, adoption, permanent guardianship, or remaining in foster care.

We have over 22 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) who serve on these cases. Of them over 66% come from Cannon Air Force Base. These Cannon Air Force Base volunteers range from active duty, spouses, and civil service members. Of these volunteers many have had problematic childhoods, which have created a desire to help children have a voice in the courts they did not have. These military associated volunteers bring observational and reporting skills, as well as their strong commitment necessary to ensuring our children have a better chance for a better life.

Yet of the 154 children we currently serve in Roosevelt & Curry Counties, less than 1% of the children are connected to Cannon Air Force Base. So should Cannon Air Force Base close, the number of children will remain, but we will have a critical shortfall of committed and qualified volunteers. Additionally other local agencies may suffer similar consequences of severe losses of their needed volunteers as well.

BRAC Commission

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Please take into account the children in our community and the impact that closing Cannon AFB may have on them. Keeping Cannon AFB open will help ensure that our abused and neglected children receive the advocacy they so desperately need.

Should you have any further questions or concern regarding the CASA program we invite you to contact us. We may be reached by email at FCCS@plateautel.net or by phone at 505-769-3227.

Very Sincerely,

Marsha Gilliland

Marsha Gilliland
Executive Director

Robert S. Orlik

Robert S. Orlik
President, Board of Directors