DCN: 4855

DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEDIA BRIEFING BOOK

CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO REGIONAL HEARING

Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico

A. Media Advisory
B. Suggested Talking Points for Installation Visit
C. Suggested Qs & As for Installation Visit
D. Sampling of Local Media Coverage Relating to BRAC

DCN

DCN: 4855

2005 BRAC Commission Schedule

Base Realignment and Closure Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
20 JUNE 2005
Contact: Robert McCreary
Deputy Director of Communications
703 – 699 – 2964
Robert.mccreary@wso.whs.mil

Media Advisory for 2005 BRAC Regional Hearing in Clovis, New Mexico

HEARING DATE: Friday, June 24

TIME: Doors Open to Public at 7:00AM (Doors close at 8:15am)

Hearing Coverage- Marshall Junior High School
8:30AM – 11:00AM / **SATTELITE TRUCK AND EQUIPMENT PRE-SET 5:30AM (NO later than 7:00AM)**

Media Availability – 1620 Main Street
As each State completes its presentation it will hold a media availability. The BRAC Commission's media availability will begin promptly 15 minutes after the end of the hearing.

LOCATION:
Marshall Junior High School
100 Commerce Way
Clovis, NM 88101

PARTICIPATING STATES:
New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada

BRAC COMMISSIONERS: General Sue Ellen Turner (USAF, Ret.), Honorable James Hansen, General James T. Hill (U.S. Army, Ret.), Honorable Philip Coyle, Honorable James H. Bilbray, General Lloyd W. Newton (USAF, Ret.)

Logistical information for media
-Satellite truck parking available on Main Street
-450 ft. Cable run to press risers
-65 ft. Max camera throw
-TV quality sound and lighting
-Free, wireless internet available

Credentialing and Media Inquiries: Contact: Jim Schaefer
james.schaefer@wso.whs.mil

For more information, schedules and future updates.
Please visit our website, www.brac.gov,

DCN: 4855

B

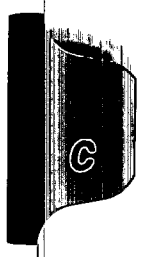
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points Regarding Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico

1. **The most important consideration to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC), as it conducts an independent review of the suggestion by the Department of Defense (DoD) to close Cannon AFB, is military value.**
   - The Commission is aware of the important defense role that Cannon AFB has played since its inception in the first half of the 20th century, and will perform a full evaluation of the current military contributions of the installation before coming to its conclusion.
   - The Congress established the Commission as an independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, as prescribed by statute, to ensure that DoD's suggestions were made in accordance with the law and that all critical factors, such as the data associated with the New Mexico Training Range Initiative (NMTRI), were taken into account.

2. **The Commission is entirely non-political in nature and will perform its evaluations by the process set forth by statute.**
   - The factors to be considered in the Commission's evaluation and analysis of Cannon AFB have been specifically outlined by law.
   - The Commission is completely open and transparent and was established by the Congress to provide accountability to the public for suggestions made by DoD to close or realign various military installations across the country.

3. **The Commission is keenly aware of the human impact that the suggestion to close Cannon AFB could have, should the suggestion be enacted.**
   - Although the most important factor in the Commission's evaluation of a military installation is the installation's military value, the Commission will also take the economic, environmental, and other effects that the suggestion to close the installation could have on the surrounding community.
   - Public input is welcomed by the Commission as a vital part of the evaluation process. The Community is encouraged to contact the Commission through the Commission's official website, www.brac.gov, to inform the Commission of any factors that the community feels may have been overlooked in the evaluation conducted by DoD.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.


C

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Qs & As Regarding Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico

Q1. U.S. Senators Pete Domenici and Jeff Bingaman are putting up a large fight against the suggestion by the Department of Defense (DoD) to close Cannon Air Force Base. They contend that the information used by the DoD in deciding to close the base was extremely flawed. Does political influence carry any weight in the evaluation conducted and the decisions made by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC)?
A1. The Congress established the BRAC Commission as a non-partisan, non-political entity to conduct a thorough, objective, and transparent analysis of the suggestions put forth by DoD to close or realign various military installations and to ensure that those suggestions were made both in accordance with the law and after all critical factors have been taken into account. The criteria by which the Commission will make its decisions has been specifically set forth by law and is based almost entirely upon military value.

Q2. The DoD recommendation to close Cannon AFB stemmed from the installation's low scores concerning the "military value" of the base. However, state and local officials contend that the scores are flawed because the equation for closing Cannon AFB did not take into account a new initiative that would greatly expand airspace access for supersonic training--The New Mexico Training Range Intiative (NMTRI). The NMTRI includes modifying the configuration of existing airspace, creating new airspace, authorizing supersonic flight above 10,000 feet above mean sea level in the airspace, or about 5,000 to 6,000 feet above ground level, and expanding the use of defensive countermeasures (chaff and flares) into new and modified airspace. The resulting airspace would allow pilots to train in the full range of missions and tactics they require to prepare for combat, including supersonic simulated weapons delivery and defensive maneuvers. Will the Commission consider the NMTRI in its recommendation concerning Cannon AFB?
A2. While DoD determines the strategy for meeting today's changing global threats, the task of the Commission is to ensure that DoD has made its suggestions in full accordance with the law, and has taken all critical factors into account. The Commission will perform a thorough, independent, and transparent evaluation of Cannon AFB before coming to its conclusions to include any factors looked over by the Department of Defense. The process followed by the Commission has been specifically set forth by statute.

Q3. Cannon AFB was founded as a civilian air passenger facility, Portair Field, in the early 1920s. Currently, the installation is home to the 27th Fighter Wing which is comprised of four F-16 squadrons. Will the Commission consider the lengthy history of this installation as well as the contributions that it has made to the defense of the United States as the Commission performs its analysis?
A3. Many, if not all, of the military installations in the United States have made very valuable contributions to our country's defense, but in these times of changing global threats, it is important that our military be as streamlined and as efficient as possible and that it not have to carry the weight of excess infrastructure that is ineffective in meeting these threats. The Congress established the Commission to ensure that the suggestions by DoD to close or realign various military installations across the country, to this end, have been made in accordance with the law and that all pertinent factors have been taken into account.

Q4. Cannon AFB contributes approximately $212 million to the state economy annually and employs roughly 4,000 people. Military and civil service civilian payroll totaled $116.2 million, contracts and purchase orders (expenditures) totaled $53.7 million and non-civil service civilian annual wages totaled $41.4 million. In addition, Cannon members volunteer thousands of hours each year to organizations in the surrounding communities, including mentoring and tutoring local school children, participating in city chamber activities, helping scouting groups, churches and veterans organizations, etc. Will the Commission take into account the economic effect that cutting these jobs would have on the region?
A4. While the Commission will base its final decision almost entirely upon military value, it will also take into careful consideration the economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure of Cannon AFB would have on the local community. The factors which are included in the Commission's evaluation have been specifically prescribed by law.

Q5. Some have compared the potential closing of Cannon AFB to the past closing of Walker AFB in Roswell, New Mexico in the late 1960's. The demographics between the two areas are very similar. It has taken nearly three decades for the Roswell community to recover from the closure of Walker AFB. Will the Commission consider historical evidence in its economic analysis of the effect that could be had by the DoD's recommendations on a community, should those recommendations be enacted?
A5. The Commission will perform a transparent, thorough, and objective analysis, as prescribed by law before coming to any conclusions. While military value is the most important consideration, the Commission will also take the economic and other effects that the closure of the installation could have into full account.

Q6. The Department of Labor offers grants—up to $1 million—for communities affected by the closure of a base. Will the Commission work to ensure that Communities continue to thrive, should an installation in their region be closed?
A6. DoD intends to work with local communities to ensure continued economic growth after the closure or realignment of a military installation, while the BRAC Commission is responsible only for evaluating the suggestions made by DoD to close or realign a military installation and ensuring that those suggestions were made in accordance with the law and that all pertinent factors were taken into account. The Commission is keenly aware of the human impact that these suggestions could have, should the suggestions be enacted, and will make a full evaluation before reaching its conclusions.

Q7. Currently, Cannon AFB houses four F-16 squadrons, 1,600 base housing units, and 9 modern hangars with space for 75 aircraft. Will the Commission consider the cost of replacing this infrastructure at other installations in reviewing the DoD's recommendations?
A7. Primarily, the Commission will consider the military value of the installation in its evaluation of the DoD BRAC recommendations. Secondly, the Commission will consider other factors such as the economic impact of the suggested closure of a base. Included in this analysis is the ability of identified installations to accept an influx of personnel and equipment. In other words, the Commission will determine whether certain installations have the required infrastructure to receive resources from an installation slated for closure. In addition, the

A7. Continued
Commission will weigh the economic costs of rebuilding infrastructure at bases versus the cost of maintaining bases that already have the required infrastructure.

Q8. How can the community make the Commission aware of factors that it feels may have been overlooked by DoD in DoD's evaluation and suggestion to close Cannon AFB?
A8. Public input is not only welcomed by the Commission, but it is considered a vital part of the process. The Community is encouraged to provide its input through the official Commission website, which is: www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.

DCN: 4855

D

CANNON AIR FORCE BASE
NEW MEXICO

National Articles
N.M. SENATORS PRESS CASE FOR SAVING CANNON AFB WITH BRAC COMMISSION MEMBER
GOV. RICHARDSON MEETS WITH AIR FORCE SECRETARY, BRAC OFFICIALS IN UTAH, NEVADA ABOUT SAVING CANNON AIR FORCE BASE
DOD RECOMMENDS CLOSING TWO ACC BASES, REALIGNING SIX OTHERS

Local Articles
NM land commissioner will seek return of trust lands if Cannon AFB closes
The rebuilding of Roswell
Cannon AFB may close; cuts strike WSMR
Luke Still Isn't Secure; Our Stand: No One Should Be Complacent That Base Is Safe
Cannon support money budgeted
Utah base watching closely what happens with Cannon
BRAC member: Cannon to get close look
Portales to provide buses to June hearing in Clovis

Editorial Articles

National Articles

N.M. SENATORS PRESS CASE FOR SAVING CANNON AFB WITH BRAC COMMISSION MEMBER

States News Service
June 9, 2005

The following information was released by the Office of New Mexico Senator Pete V. Domenici:

U.S. Senators Pete Domenici and Jeff Bingaman received assurances from retired Brigadier General Sue E. Turner, a member of the Base **Realignment** and Closure (BRAC) Commission, that the data behind the Pentagon recommendation to close Cannon Air Force Base will be closely scrutinized before the base's fate is decided.
Domenici and Bingaman today conducted a teleconference meeting with Turner to discuss **Cannon AFB,** and the commissioner's upcoming site visit to the base on June 23 and the subsequent regional BRAC hearing in Clovis on June 24.
The Senators initiated the interaction with Turner as part of their roles in the comprehensive effort by federal, state and local leaders in New Mexico to overturn the 2005 BRAC recommendation to close Cannon.
Now having reviewed some of the Pentagon data on Cannon, the Senators shared with Turner their growing concerns about the military value scores for Cannon on such issues as encroachment and overland training capabilities. They also stressed the terrible economic impact that closing the base would have on eastern New Mexico and West Texas. The more we review the data the Pentagon is giving us for wanting to close Cannon, the more skeptical I become that

the justifications have merit. I think it's important that the BRAC commissioners have a sense of the misgivings we have. General Turner seemed to understand where we were coming from, and she certainly let us know that the commission fully intends to scrutinize the rationale behind the decision to target Cannon, Domenici said. It seems every day we're finding new flaws in the Air Force's rationale for putting Cannon on the base closure list. We have a strong case to make for keeping Cannon open, and based on the conversations we've had so far with BRAC commissioners we have reason to believe they will hear us out, Bingaman said.
During their meeting today, Domenici and Bingaman criticized the Defense Department's treatment of rural versus urban encroachment and training capabilities, pointing the Cannon area is the only spot in the nation where airspace is increasing. They stressed the pending approval for New Mexico Training Range Initiative (NMTRI) at Cannon, which would give the Air Force new airspace access for supersonic training. In addition, they asserted that, to date, there is no data to support whether the Pentagon adequately considered the potential for greater joint training exercise with facilities like Fort Bliss.
The Senators also challenged the Pentagon's economic impact assessment on **Cannon AFB,** believing that the 20 percent economic hit from closing the base is vastly under calculated.
Since the 2005 BRAC list was issued in mid-May, the Senators have met with a number of BRAC Commissioners, including Chairman Anthony Principi, retired Air Force Gen. Lloyd Fig Newton, a former commander at Holloman Air Force Base, retired Army General James T. Hill, and former congressmen James Bilbray of Nevada and James Hansen of Utah. The meetings have been part of a unified effort to lay the groundwork for convincing the BRAC Commission to overturn the recommendation to close Cannon.

GOV. RICHARDSON MEETS WITH AIR FORCE SECRETARY, BRAC OFFICIALS IN UTAH, NEVADA ABOUT SAVING CANNON AIR FORCE BASE

US States News
June 6, 2005

Gov. Bill Richardson, D-N.M., issued the following press release:

Gov. Bill Richardson is traveling to Washington, D.C., today to meet with Acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael Dominguez about New Mexico's efforts to keep Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis open.

"I requested a meeting with Secretary Dominguez to present my concerns and discuss several mistakes we believe were made during the evaluation of Cannon," Governor Bill Richardson said. "It's clear the Pentagon shortchanged Cannon on issues such as the availability of airspace for the New Mexico Training Range Initiative, the base's value to the nation's military mission and the fact that there is no encroachment upon the base in Clovis."

Governor Richardson will travel later this week to Nevada and Utah to meet with two members of the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission. Governor Richardson will meet with Commissioner James V. Hanson, a former Congressman from Utah, on Friday, June 10, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Governor Richardson will also meet with James H. Bilbray, a former Congressman from Nevada, on Sunday, June 12, in Las Vegas, NV.

"I promised the people of Clovis that I would work with the community to do everything possible to save Cannon," Governor Bill Richardson said. "Our congressional delegation is working closely leaders in Washington, D.C. to save Cannon. I will travel to the home states of the BRAC commissioners to argue for Cannon and show that New Mexico is serious about keeping the base open."

Soon after the decision by the Bush Administration to back the Pentagon's decision to include Cannon Air Force Base on the base-closure list, Governor Richardson led a Town Hall meeting in Clovis to meet with local officials to launch the fight to overturn this flawed decision by the Bush Administration.

Governor Richardson also authorized the use of $300,000 to hire two firms, Hyjek and Fix and Keystone International, Inc. to assist in the fight to overturn Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's recommendation and keep **Cannon AFB** open.

DOD RECOMMENDS CLOSING TWO ACC BASES, REALIGNING SIX OTHERS

US Fed News
Maj. Dave Honchul
May 17, 2005

U.S. Air Force Air Combat Command issued the following press release:
Air Combat Command Public Affairs

Two Air Combat Command bases were among the major installations recommended by the secretary of defense for closure and six others were recommended for **realignment** as part of the 2005 Base **Realignment** and Closure.

The secretary recommended closing **Cannon AFB,** N.M., and Ellsworth AFB, S.D., when the BRAC list was released May 13. If approved, the bases would close by 2011. Cannon's 60 F-16s would be distributed to other Air Force and Air National Guard units across the nation. Ellsworth's 24 B-1s would move to Dyess AFB, Texas.

The six ACC bases recommended for **realignment** were Beale AFB, Calif.; Dyess AFB, Texas; Langley AFB, Va.; Mountain Home AFB, Idaho; Nellis AFB, Nev.; and Shaw AFB, S.C.

"The process used in determining these recommendations was fair and impartial. These recommendations balance airpower among our active duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard components," said Lt. Gen. William Fraser, ACC vice commander.

The list also contained recommendations on numerous Air National Guard units which are aligned under ACC when activated. Two ANG locations - Otis ANGB, Mass., and W.K. Kellogg AGS, Mich. - were recommended for closure. Twenty-four additional ANG units under ACC were recommended for **realignment.**

The recommendations are now in the hands of the nine-person independent commission that will conduct a thorough review and analysis of the DOD's recommendations. The commission can add bases to the closure list if seven of the members agree. They can remove a base from the list with

a simple majority vote.

The commission's report of its findings and conclusions must be sent to the president by Sept. 8.

"Closing and realigning our bases helps consolidate aircraft and operations into larger squadrons that optimize critical resources," General Fraser said. "The integration of Reserve, Guard and active duty Airmen strengthens our overall warfighting capability.

"BRAC and our Future Total Force initiatives will aid in the Air Force's transformation to position us to better meet the increasingly complex challenges of the 21st century."

The recommended actions for ACC units are part of the overall Air Force recommendations which affect a total of 115 installations, reducing excess airfield infrastructure by 37 percent while retaining 5.4 million square yards of ramp space for surge operations and emerging missions. It will result in flying operations ceasing at 28 installations in the United States.

Local Articles

NM land commissioner will seek return of trust lands if Cannon AFB closes
Associated Press State and Local Wire
May 13, 2005

The state's land commissioner said Monday he would take action to regain state trust lands in eastern New Mexico if Cannon Air Force Base is closed.

State Land Commissioner Patrick Lyons said in a letter to the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission that he will seek the return of about 80,000 acres of state trust land that surrounds the base and the Melrose Bombing Range in Clovis.

The land, acquired by the base through Department of Defense exchanges with the state, is worth about $1.50 per acre per year in agriculture, Lyons said.

The land could also be used for public schools, universities, hospitals and water programs.

Lyons said he would be willing to take the fight to regain the land to court, if need be.

"If the federal government can't see what an asset Cannon is to our military and pull out, I want our land back so we can earn more money for New Mexico's school children," Lyons said.

The rebuilding of Roswell
Albuquerque Journal
Andrew Webb
May 29, 2005

City's recovery from 1967 base shutdown could hold lessons for Clovis if **Cannon AFB** closes

ROSWELL -- In the first half of 1967, a third of Roswell's population vanished, leaving in its

wake shuttered schools, closed businesses and empty homes, some in foreclosure.

Lifelong resident Julie Shuster was in high school then, and though she says she was too young to pay attention to current events, the dramatic changes in her southeast New Mexico city were difficult to miss.

"I do remember the vacant houses, friends that were gone, and how crushed everyone was," said Shuster, now director of the International UFO Museum and Research Center. "It was just a major slap."

It's taken three decades for Roswell to regain the population lost when Walker Air Force Base, home to about 5,000 employees and their families, closed on July 1, 1967.

Today, the base's massive, 13,000-foot runways are used for training and aircraft storage. And a range of companies -- from an aircraft scrapper to a lollipop factory -- calls the former base's 115 buildings home.

The city is also seeing a boom in home construction and new retail business as retirees flock to the Southwest.

By most accounts, Roswell eventually recovered, although slowly, thanks to the foresight of a group of city leaders who, in the 1960s, helped develop plans to utilize the base and diversify the city's shattered economy.

That work -- and the lessons learned -- could serve as a template for Clovis as it faces the possible loss of its Air Force base in the latest round of closures and **realignments.**

The Pentagon recommends relocating Cannon Air Force Base's squadrons of fighter jets and closing the base by 2011.

So far, discussion of Cannon's fate has centered on saving the base, not what to do should it close.

But William Brainerd, an attorney who, in 1968, took the helm as mayor of Roswell as it reeled from the loss of some 13,000 residents, offers this advice: "I would tell them they should start *planning now."*

Adds Roswell planning director Zachary Montgomery: "My advice would be to have them concentrate on alternative industry that can take up the slack if the base is closed if they want to prevent a mass exodus."

Bad news

The Dec. 7, 1965, headline in the Roswell Daily Record read "Rep. Walker to Fight."

But even by then, it seemed officials had already resigned themselves to the just-announced news of the base's impending closure. That was despite a promise by the base's namesake, Rep. Johnny Walker, D-N.M., to fight for its removal from the list.

The closures proposed in 1965 included about 150 bases in 39 states.

That same day, the newspaper reported that the city had already assembled groups to study

possible uses for the sprawling 5,000-acre base. Brainerd was asked by then-Mayor Gail Harris to serve on one of several base closure committees.

"We realized in early 1966 that we'd better get ready and see what we were going to do," he said, crediting the now-deceased Harris with spearheading the effort.

Walker's two main B-52 bomber groups were to be moved to bases in Maine and North Dakota. Brainerd said the stated reason was "less than adequate flying weather in New Mexico."

The base was really doomed, Brainerd posits, by the city's voting record in the 1964 presidential election.

"The underlying reason was we voted for (Arizona representative and 1964 Republican presidential candidate Barry) Goldwater," he said. "Lyndon Johnson didn't forget those things."

City leaders were told the decision "was coming right from the White House," he said.

Walker's planes and staff began leaving in early 1967, and on July 1, the Air Force turned over the keys to the city. By then, 6,000 of Roswell's 18,000 homes stood vacant, and housing prices had plummeted.

Also left empty were 800 modest base housing units.

Nearly a ghost town

The city had grown from 13,500 residents when the base was established in 1941 to 25,700 in 1950, said Montgomery. It reached its peak of nearly 48,000 in 1967. But by 1970, its population had dropped to less than 34,000.

The exodus was slowed, somewhat, by Roswell's natural gas and oil extraction industry, as well as healthy dairy and agriculture businesses, Montgomery said.

"Had it not been for those, Roswell would have dried up and become a ghost town," he said.

But lack of large-scale industries, such as manufacturing, left few options for newly unemployed residents.

"Because we didn't have a strong alternative industry, it took 33 years to get the population back," he said.

Roswell's population currently stands at about 48,000.

Dividing up airfield

Once it was decided that the Air Force would give Walker Air Force Base to the city, planners divided it up into four distinct chunks, Brainerd said.

Several barracks, offices and other buildings were given to Eastern New Mexico University; a large hospital complex was handed to the state, which established a well-known rehabilitation facility there; a housing authority was created to come up with a plan for the 800 concrete block base homes; and the city took over the airfield and its 115 industrial buildings.

That facility is now called the Roswell International Air Center, reflecting its recent designation as a tax-free foreign trade zone, which the city hopes will attract freight carriers.

"That's sort of been a double-edged sword. It's been great to have the airfield available. It's still our biggest and best asset. But the expense of maintaining it has been a monkey on the general fund's back. It's not cheap," Montgomery said.

The city contributes about $350,000 of the center's annual budget of about $1.5 million. It has revenues of about $1.5 to $2 million per year. The money comes from leasing to companies and the provision of the landing strip for military and commercial training, general aviation, freight and daily passenger service provided by Mesa Airlines.

Brainerd said taking over the base was a tough sell for Roswell's remaining residents in the 1960s. In many cases, cities choose to abandon military bases rather than face the cost of maintaining them.

"They had such drive and passion," Bob Donnell said of Brainerd, Harris and other city leaders from the '60s. Donnell is executive director of the Chaves County Development Foundation. "They were convinced they'd make the area a success."

It wasn't easy.

"A number of people didn't feel we should take over the base, because we were now suddenly a small city with economic trauma like nothing we'd ever seen before," Brainerd said.

But on the day the city took possession, officials breathed a sigh of relief as the first company, a Texas fireworks firm, made plans to manufacture and store fireworks in earthen ammunition bunkers on the base's fringe.

"That was a good sign that, yeah, we could attract entities to provide employment," Brainerd said.

Reusing the base

Today, it's difficult to tell that the area south of Roswell was formerly a bustling military base.

The south end of Roswell proper still bears the scars of a prolonged economic downturn. Vacant strip malls, used car dealers and weedy parking lots attest to the fact that development has charged northward from downtown and left this part of the city behind.

Upon entering the former base, the wide, four-lane boulevard is flanked on either side by the former base housing, much of which is dilapidated and overgrown.

But farther south, the tree-lined streets open up to reveal former barracks and buildings used as college dorms, Job Corps quarters and businesses. A semicircular drive flanking the airfield serves massive hangars, many built during World War II and modernized with metal siding, new windows and replacement roofs. Other amenities, such as a new Federal Aviation Administration control tower and fire station, have been added over the years.

Among these facilities are sports fields and other assets now used in various programs for youth or law enforcement agencies.

Airplane graveyard

But what the visitor can't help but notice are the planes shimmering beyond the airfield fences in the desert heat.

About 240 widebody jets and a broad selection of other aircraft are parked in orderly rows along unused taxiways, some carefully preserved for eventual return to service, and some, such as a fading private jet once owned by Elvis Presley, dropping parts into the weeds below. Many of the aircraft hail from defunct airlines, while others, such as rows of American Airlines and United Parcel Service jetliners, are waiting for the industry to recover from its post-Sept. 11, 2001, doldrums.

Several companies, such as Illinois-based AAR Corp., employ more than 200 here in the business of mothballing, servicing or scrapping these planes. Another firm, Texas-based Dean Baldwin Painting, paints jetliners in a hangar originally built to house massive bombers.

The Air Center has had its ups and downs -- the former Nova Bus plant, which once employed 2,000, closed in 2002, and the fireworks firm no longer operates here. But all except two buildings are leased, said its manager, Dennis Ybarra.

"I think we have a reputation for good weather and companies established here that will entice more companies," he said, noting that the center relies largely on word-of-mouth for marketing.

Donnell agreed.

"There are few buildings left out there that aren't in use," he said.

Surplus housing

The former Walker base housing, which was first rented, then eventually sold, remains a thorn in the city's side. Many of the homes, including the one Donnell lived in when his father served at the base, are boarded up.

Suzanne Lem, 58, and her husband bought one of the houses 15 years ago for $9,200. She says when they moved there, the neighborhood was catering to retirees looking for a deal. But since then, the low prices, the distance from the rest of town and the constant jet noise, have brought in low-income buyers, and with them, drugs, neglect and crime.

Lem said a drive-by shooting peppered a neighbor's home two weeks ago.

"If I could get out of here, I would," she said.

City leaders are still considering ways to improve the neighborhood, which is still served by the Walker Post Office.

"That's the part that was hardest about the transition," Brainerd said. "It's the one thing that didn't work as well."

Signs of growth

Today, Roswell faces the same problems nagging other rural communities. Downtown storefronts are hard to fill as consumers gravitate toward newer, discount stores on the city's fringe, and developers still must overcome the distance from major transportation hubs when trying to attract businesses.

But development in the rest of the city suggests a thriving economy.

Up to 20 new housing permits are issued every month, and the city recently approved the building of a new Sam's Club store, not to mention a recently built Super Wal-Mart, several hotels and a number of restaurants under construction on north Main Street.

No single business comes close to the former base with regard to employment. Roswell schools, with 822 employees, is the city's largest employer, and a cheese plant is the largest company, with 413 people.

But that might not be so bad, Shuster argues.

"They've done an amazing job," she says of city efforts to diversify employment. "Now, if the UFO museum went away, or if a dairy went away, it wouldn't be devastating to Roswell. No one factor can affect everyone now."

REUSING WALKER AIR FORCE BASE

Walker, which was closed in 1967, is now divided into four uses.

* Eastern New Mexico University uses several office buildings and former barracks, including World War II-era quonset huts, for its Roswell campus, which has about 4,000 students. ENMUR offers traditional college courses, as well as adult education and career training such as aviation mechanics.

* The former base hospital is now the 41-bed New Mexico Rehabilitation Center, which offers occupational, behavioral, speech and psychological therapy, as well as a chemical dependency program. It is owned by the state.

* The 5,000-acre airfield is now owned by the city and is operated as the Roswell International Air Center, formerly Roswell Industrial Air Center. The addition of "international" reflects its recent designation as a tax-free foreign trade zone, which officials hope will attract freight carriers to the area. Its 115 buildings are home to several companies, many specializing in education, and its two runways, which are among the longest in the world, are used for military and civilian flight training, general aviation, and aircraft storage.

* The base's 800 homes were at first leased through a city-created housing authority. After several privately run management firms went bankrupt, most of the homes were sold to private individuals, and many are still in use. Some, however, are abandoned and have fallen into disrepair. The city is considering options for rehabilitating the area.

CANNON AFB

EMPLOYS: 4,000.
CLOVIS' POPULATION: 34,000.
CLOSURE: Proposal announced 2005; base closure scheduled by 2011.

OF NOTE: Home to four F-16 fighter squadrons, about 1,600 base housing units and 9 modern hangars with space for 75 aircraft.
ECONOMIC IMPACT ON CLOVIS: $212 million; Base is gathering data about actual number of employee dependents living on and off base.
WALKER AFB
EMPLOYED: 5,000
ROSWELL'S POPULATION AT TIME: 48,000.
CLOSURE: Proposal announced in 1965; base closed in 1967.
OF NOTE: Home to airfield, 115 buildings and hangars, 800 homes, B-52 bomber squadrons, Hospital.
ECONOMIC IMPACT AT TIME: $18 million in annual payroll, $4 million in annual government purchases, supported about 13,000 people including employees and their dependents.

Cannon AFB may close; cuts strike WSMR
Las Cruces Sun-News
Steve Ramirez
May 14, 2005

New Mexico took a blow Friday with the announcement of the closing of Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis and the loss of 178 positions at the Army Research Laboratory at White Sands Missile Range.

The Pentagon's Base **Realignment** and Closure (BRAC) list also calls for the closure of the Jenkins Armed Forces Reserve Center in Albuquerque.

The closure of Cannon will eliminate 2,385 military positions and 384 civilian jobs, while 35 military and one civilian job will be eliminated with the closing of Jenkins Armed Forces Reserve Center.

The loss at White Sands will include 165 civilian jobs and 13 military. That amounts to almost 2.9 percent of White Sands' work force.

"We are disappointed the Department (of Defense) has recommended the relocation of the Army Research Lab," Las Cruces Mayor Bill Mattiace said. "These service members and their families are valued members of our community. We hope to better understand the basis for the department's recommendation to move this unit our of the community. We may seek an opportunity to appear before the (BRAC) commission to provide them with more current and accurate data to assist them in reviewing the Department of Defense recommendation."

The closures and consolidations would happen over six years starting in 2006.

New Mexico's other military installations < Holloman Air Force Base, near Alamogordo, and Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque < will all face changes in personnel, but will not be closed.

Holloman, like White Sands, will be realigned and will lose 17 military positions.

"Holloman fully supports the Secretary of Defense and is looking forward to making a fully effective and efficient military for our nation's future," said Brig. Gen. Kurt Cichowski, Holloman commander.

"Holloman has a realigned (status) with a net loss of 17 military and we're trying to figure out what that is."

However, Kirtland will have a net gain of 206 personnel, 30 military and 176 civilian jobs. In 1996, Kirtland was on the BRAC list for closure.

White Sands currently employs about 6,200 civilians, of which approximately 56 percent live in Las Cruces. It has an economic impact on southern New Mexico < primarily Las Cruces < of about $1 million a day.

"We at White Sands feel a special bond with the folks at Army Research Laboratory," said Larry Furrow, White Sands spokesman. "They are in integral part of our team, and we're all very sorry to hear about their move to places back to the east. But while we're sorry to see them go, we also want to wish them well and know they will continue to play an important role in our nation's defense. We at White Sands will do everything necessary to assist them in making their transition a smooth one."

Cannon, established in 1942, has had an estimated economic impact of more than $202 million on the state's economy. Cannon has a military and civilian payroll of $121.6 million, and base officials have estimated that the base has created about 770 jobs in the eastern New Mexico community.

According to a January 2004 study released by New Mexico State University, closing Cannon will mean an estimated loss of $98 million to Curry County, where Cannon is located.

It is anticipated that Clovis' F-16 fighter wing will be moved elsewhere and Air Force personnel transferred to other bases.

The Pentagon's announcement starts the next round for New Mexico: trying to save Cannon and keep any gains the other installations are slated to get. Gov. Bill Richardson said Friday that $300,000 in state funds will be allotted to attempt to reverse the BRAC commission's recommendation.

"This is not a good day for New Mexico ... and we're going to fight it," Richardson said. "We're deeply disappointed. The process has been flawed. This is a huge blow and we're going to fight back."

Altogether, New Mexico stands to lose 2,849 military positions. In four previous rounds of BRAC, the state had not experienced significant job losses.

Rep. Steve Pearce, R-N.M., said there was "a lot of potential flaws in their analysis."

Altogether, the Pentagon has proposed closing 150 military installations from Maine to Hawaii, including 33 major bases. Also, more than 100 other smaller facilities would be closed, including scores of Reserve and National Guard installations.

"The Army and Department of Defense are streamlining their portfolio of installations to

optimize military value and reduce taxpayer cost," said Army Brig. Gen. Robert J. Reese, White Sands commander.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has said the move would save $48.8 billion in 20 years while reshaping the military for America's expected 21st century adversaries.

Rumsfeld's plan calls for a massive shift of U.S. forces that would result in a net loss of 29,005 military and civilian jobs at domestic installations. Overall, he proposes pulling 218,570 military and civilian positions out of some U.S. bases while adding 189,565 positions to others.

Before closures or consolidations can begin, the Defense Department proposal must be approved or changed by the BRAC Commission and then agreed to by Congress and President Bush. The process will continue into early fall.

Luke Still Isn't Secure; Our Stand: No One Should Be Complacent That Base Is Safe
Arizona Republic
May 21, 2005

Round 1 is over and West Valley communities that banded together in a strong show of solidarity behind Luke Air Force Base have good reason to smile.

Their hard work in developing a long-term strategy to preserve Luke's mission as the premier training facility for F-16 pilots paid off: Luke was not on the list of base closures announced by the Pentagon.

As positive a decision as it was, it would be deadly wrong to assume that Luke and other major military installations in Arizona are home free.

They're not.

It is this uncertainty that we hope will keep complacency from gaining the upper hand in the hearts and minds of West Valley civic leaders and politicians.

Two glances eastward tell frightful stories.

In 1988, the first of five Base **Realignment** and Closure rounds saw Williams AFB in Mesa shut down. Not the great flying weather; not the Barry Goldwater Gunnery Range; and not the large expanses of undeveloped land around Willy could halt its closure.

This year, look farther to the eastern horizon and **Cannon AFB** in Clovis, N.M., another F-16 base. It is one of two Air Force bases on the closure list in this BRAC round, and New Mexico's outrage is palpable over the prospect of losing thousands of jobs and the millions of dollars the base generates. From the city to the statehouse to Washington, Cannon supporters vow to fight to get Cannon off the list.

While 85 percent of the initial recommendations for closure stick, New Mexico has had success

before in contesting BRAC recommendations: In 1995 Kirtland AFB outside of Albuquerque was taken off the closure list, preserving 7,000 jobs.

One of the points that Cannon supporters make is that there is no residential encroachment, a not-so-veiled reference at the Achilles heel of Luke and Davis Monthan in Tucson.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson said in the Clovis News Journal, "We will work immediately to convince BRAC commissioners that the Pentagon overlooked the obvious strengths of Cannon, including its value to the nation's military mission and the fact that there is no encroachment upon the base in Clovis."

The West Valley has had to balance its desire to expand its communities and capitalize on growth and enact policies and laws that preserve Luke's mission for the long haul. Its performance -- particularly of late -- has been admirable and the days of a handful of communities like El Mirage and Surprise permitting residential developments in the noise contours are over.

The record today is impressive, exemplified by Goodyear's recent agreement to remove 145 planned homes from the Southern Departure Corridor, the requirement of compatible land uses inside the noise contours and a law that creates a revenue stream to compensate private landowners near the state's military bases.

Still, Luke took a small hit. Base officials still are filtering the information. All they know so far is that 278 military and civilian personnel and 48 aircraft will be realigned elsewhere.

The partnership in the West Valley to protect Luke and its $1.4 billion annual economic impact must remain vigilant in its defense and continue to take steps to protect the base. To do otherwise is to flirt with disaster.

Cannon support money budgeted
Clovis News Journal
June 17, 2005

Only $350,000 of the $500,000 of taxpayer money pledged to save Cannon Air Force Base has been budgeted so far, Clovis City Manager Joe Thomas said on Thursday.

Fiscal responsibility is at the heart of decisions being made by the mutual-aid group, Thomas said.

"Out of this money that is pledged it is not the intent of this committee that we have to spend all of it," Thomas said. "That's why we set up a tentative budget considerably less than the amount that was pledged."

After Cannon Air Force Base was placed on the Base Realignment and Closure list in May, Clovis, Curry County, Portales and Roosevelt County pledged a combined $500,000 toward an effort to have Cannon removed from the list.

In a meeting between the entities, Clovis was chosen as the fiscal agent, because the city had a

contract in place with the Clovis/Curry County Chamber of Commerce for business retention. The Chamber is handling all the invoicing with the law firm hired to consult during the BRAC process.

Just because money was pledged, doesn't mean it will be spent, either. Until the city of Clovis is invoiced for services rendered, money will not be spent in the effort, Thomas said. Clovis will invoice the other entities for their share.

Ten percent of the funds were set aside for projects specific to each of the communities, Thomas said, such as community transportation to the regional hearing set for June 24, and banners that would only be displayed in one community.

The bulk of the budgeted money is earmarked for the law firm DLA Piper, which is doing much of the consulting work in Washington, Thomas said.

So far, Thomas said, the city has only paid one invoice, which was for $2,000 and related to analysis of data produced by the government.

A tentative $19,000 budget has been established for the BRAC regional hearing to take place June 24.

The general costs will be distributed through the four entities pledging money proportional to the percentage of the total they each pledged.

Utah base watching closely what happens with Cannon
Clovis News Journal
Marlena Hartz
June 17, 2005

The future of Cannon Air Force Base is being watched closely even beyond eastern New Mexico and West Texas.

Six Air Force bases across the United States stand to inherit F-16 fighter jets if Cannon is closed, including Hill Air Force Base in Ogden, Utah.

"I can't say there is a direct correlation between what happens at Cannon and what happens at Hill, but we are taking a cautious look at what's going on, as all communities with bases are," said Rick Mayfield, executive director of Utah Defense Alliance, a group similar to Clovis' Committee of Fifty, comprised of business owners and citizens who support military operations.

Clovis is home to roughly 80 F-16s, including a squadron from Singapore.

The Air Force recently retired a fleet of older planes at Hill, Mayfield said. They will be replaced with six F-16 Fighting Falcons from Cannon under the Pentagon's Base Realignment and Closure plan, according to Department of Defense documents.

Mayfield said he doesn't care where the planes are taken from, he just wants to be sure they are

replaced.

Hill employs about 17,000 civilians, according to Vickie McCall, president of the Utah Defense Alliance. The Ogden Air Logistics Center on base repairs of intercontinental ballistic missiles, aircraft, munitions, aircraft software and information processing, according to globalsecurity.org. The base is also home to 250 aircraft.

The number of civilian jobs is expansive compared to the 384 the Air Force reports would be lost if Cannon closed.
But the bases do have a lot in common, McCall said.

"Both have similar missions. They both have fighter wings, a depot, a reserve wing, and a training range," McCall said, comparing Cannon to Hill, which is situated in northern Utah.

"Everything is so intertwined in this BRAC process," McCall said. "One decision impacts many, many other bases.

Unfortunately the rationale in this report has consequences.

If Cannon stays open, it affects a number of bases. We would then lose our reserve mission. That's not going to close our doors, but it is a negative consequence for us."

A regional hearing and site visit for Cannon is scheduled for June 23-24. During the visit, law firm DLA Piper, state officials and the Committee of Fifty will argue as to why Cannon should be spared from the list.

The Utah Defense Alliance already had a meeting with the BRAC Commission on June 6. Mayfield said, during the visit, three BRAC commissioners reiterated Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's statement that changing any recommendation would unravel intricate BRAC plans.

Committee of Fifty member Randy Harris declined to comment on Cannon's relation to Hill. Mayfield, McCall and Harris, however, said the BRAC process is not inherently caddy, in which one base is pitted against another.

"Cannon has to survive on its own merits," McCall said. "My heart just aches for them (Cannon backers). I know how proud they are of Cannon Air Force Base."

BRAC member: Cannon to get close look
By Associated Press
June 10, 2005

A member of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission has assured New Mexico's two senators that data behind the Pentagon's decision to recommend the closure of Cannon Air Force Base would be closely scrutinized before the base's fate is decided.

Sens. Pete Domenici, an Albuquerque Republican, and Jeff Bingaman, a Silver City Democrat, said they received the assurance from retired Brig. Gen. Sue Turner during a telephone call Thursday to discuss the base and the commission's upcoming hearing in Clovis.

The senators told Turner they are concerned about the economic impact that closing the base would have on eastern New Mexico and west Texas.

They also said Cannon is the only spot in the nation where airspace is increasing. The Air Force has been working to expand the training range around Cannon - both in space and supersonic capabilities. The base's supporters have expressed frustration that the Pentagon did not take the planned expansion into account in its analysis.

"The more we review the data the Pentagon is giving us for wanting to close Cannon, the more skeptical I become that the justifications have merit," Domenici said. "I think it's important that the BRAC commissioners have a sense of the misgivings we have."

Bingaman said that as the days go on, more flaws are being found in the Pentagon's rationale for putting Cannon on the closure list.

"We have a strong case to make for keeping Cannon open, and based on the conversations we've had so far with BRAC commissioners, we have reason to believe they will hear us out," Bingaman said.

The next step for the base commission is to review the Pentagon's recommendations and hold hearings, including the June 24 hearing in Clovis. It would take five of the nine commissioners to remove a base from the list.

The panel's recommendations are due to President Bush by Sept. 8. The president may accept or reject the entire list. If he accepts it, it goes to Congress for a vote, again on the entire list.

The Pentagon has estimated it would save $2.7 billion over 20 years by closing Cannon, costing 2,385 military employees and 384 civilian jobs on base and about 2,000 indirect jobs. Cannon's economic impact has been estimated at $200 million a year - about a third of the local economy.

Portales to provide buses to June hearing in Clovis
Clovis News Journal
Kevin Wilson
June 14, 2005

PORTALES — At least 16 buses will be on hand June 24 to take Portales residents to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission hearing in Clovis, according to the Portales "Operation Keep Cannon" committee. Members also discussed Tuesday plans for distributing tickets to the hearing, set for 8:30 a.m. at Marshall Junior High School's auditorium.

There will be 1,300 tickets available for Portales, committee member Sharon Davis said. The tickets will be available at 5:30 p.m. on June 22 at the Roosevelt County Courthouse lobby on a first-come, first-served basis, with a limit of one per person. The tickets will only be available to those who come to the courthouse lobby and are 14 or older, Davis said.

The tickets will be good for either the auditorium where the meeting will be conducted or two

other locations where the hearing will be broadcast — the Church of Christ on 16th and Pile or a gymnasium at Marshall. Those requesting tickets are not guaranteed placement in a particular venue. Traveling by bus is recommended due to the expected traffic the hearing is expected to create, committee officials said.

The buses will be loaded at 6 a.m. on June 24 in the Greyhound Arena parking lot and will depart at 6:15 a.m.
Those intending to ride a bus can call the Roosevelt County Chamber of Commerce at 356-8541 and request one of three bus routes:

• The first route will take residents down the path from Cannon Air Force Base to Marshall Junior High, and those residents will get out of the bus and line the streets until BRAC commissioners travel through. Those residents will return to the buses and be back in Portales around 9 a.m. People with tickets should not take this option.

• The second route will take passengers to the school, where passengers can either enter one of the venues (ticket required) or be part of the overflow crowd at an adjacent football field. The buses will return to Portales 30 minutes after the hearing concludes (approximately 10:30 a.m.) and should be back in Portales by 11 a.m.

• The third route will take passengers to the school, where passengers can either enter one of the venues (ticket required) or be part of the overflow crowd. Those passengers will stay for the hearing and a rally set to take place outside after the hearing. Those buses will leave for Portales about 1:30 p.m.

In other business at Tuesday's meeting:
• The members discussed how to give out T-shirts that have been printed for the hearing. The committee is leaning toward giving shirts away during the ticket distribution and having leftover shirts available on the buses.

• Kim Huffman, chairman of the Roosevelt County Chamber of Commerce, said that Keep Cannon promotional materials were available at the chamber, and would also be available at a booth during this weekend's Heritage Days events at City Park.

Editorial Articles