

May 19, 2005

1117 Leo Drive
Portales, NM 88130

BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark Street-Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

 RECEIVED

06132005

Dear member of the BRAC Commission:

It has come to the attention of students, faculty, and staff members at Portales High School in Portales, New Mexico, that Cannon Air Force Base is scheduled for closure some time within the next year. For many years, Cannon Air Force Base has been a vital part of the infrastructure of the Clovis and Portales communities.

Not only does Cannon AFB affect the economic stability of this area, but we depend on these armed forces personnel to preserve our security. In a post-9/11 world, the threat of enemy attack on American soil is a distinct and ever-present reality. Bases in our state are of particular significance, because they serve to protect scientific research and development facilities such as Los Alamos National Laboratories and Sandia Laboratories. These establishments are the sites of discoveries and developments that not only enrich our everyday lives, but also have the potential to one day preserve peace on a global scale.

In addition to providing significant protection for the Labs, our state's military bases are able to utilize our unique terrain in order to develop and perfect weapons and defense systems. White Sands Missile Range, and closer to our communities, the Melrose Bombing Range, are able, because of our distinct geographical features, to perform this research and testing without danger to civilians.

For these and many other reasons, we ask that you reconsider the decision to close Cannon Air Force Base. Our military bases are an asset to our communities, our states, our nation, and, ultimately, our world.

Sincerely,



Martha Crane, Instructor of English, Speech and Debate Coach
Portales High School
Portales, NM