

DCN: 6569



August 4, 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 05 2005

Received

Mr. Ken Small  
Air Force Team Leader  
Defense Base Closure  
& Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202-3920

Dear Mr. Small:

As you know, the BRAC Commission will hold an additional hearing to question members of the Department of Defense prior to your final deliberations in August. The community of Clovis, NM, respectfully requests that you consider the enclosed questions related to Cannon AFB. We believe these are important to determine the answers to numerous unanswered questions related to Cannon AFB.

There have also been discussions related to the joint training opportunities at Cannon AFB. We continue to believe that given the large movement of troops and missions back to the southwest area of the United States, that Cannon AFB can play the role as a vital force multiplier in the training of our ground forces in the future. We have enclosed a brief White Paper describing our thoughts for joint training at Cannon AFB.

We understand the incredible time challenge you are under and immense volumes of data you are responsible for analyzing. Your staff has been generous with their time and we have confidence that they are reviewing the facts fairly and thoroughly. Similarly, we appreciate your dedicated service and your commitment to the defense of the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Harris".

Randy Harris  
Chairman, Committee of Fifty

Attachment (1) Potential Questions to the DoD Panel  
Attachment (2) Joint Concept of Operations White Paper

## Potential BRAC Commission Questions for August DoD Hearing Regarding Cannon AFB

(Four areas included: NPV Savings, Economic Impact, Military Value, Future Force Structure)

1. Did the Air Force adequately considered the issues of encroachment—land, air, and environmental—when it weighted and scored the military value for the different bases? Why was encroachment for fighter bases weighted so low—only 2.28%— when it is one of the most important factors affecting the future of these bases?
2. Since this BRAC is likely to determine the base infrastructure for the next decade or longer, was the potential for future encroachment at fighter bases adequately considered? (Since the value of bases such as Luke, and other bases, is likely to decrease with increased future encroachment, the relative value of Cannon will likely increase)
3. Why won't the Air Force correct the errors on the Military Value calculations that were made specifically in relation to Cannon AFB? (The operational hours were incorrect, the buildable acres factor was incorrect, the ATC factor was inaccurate, the Proximity to Training Airspace issues was not properly computed, the NM Training Range Initiative wasn't considered, etc.)
4. Was the expansion potential for Cannon AFB properly considered in computation of its Military Value? (Base, Melrose Range, and airspace can all be expanded in a flexible way to accommodate new mission requirements)
5. Does the AF BRAC proposal adequately provide for potential unforeseen contingencies such as return of fighter units from overseas bases or changes due to the Quad review action? (Post BRAC bed down would not provide Strategic Depth needed if forces overseas were returned to CONUS. Strategic Depth must consider base structure, ranges and airspace available for training, and ability to mobilize rapidly to return to forward locations.)
6. Did the Air Force look at future missions such as the Airborne Laser Program for Cannon? This program will require the basing of up to (8) B747s and a chemical plant that must be specifically located far from a population center.
7. Does the Net Present Value saving for Cannon actually reflect future savings to the taxpayer and the DoD budget? Why did the NPV savings change so dramatically in the last few weeks prior to May 13<sup>th</sup>? (NPV doubled in the last

few weeks prior to release, the “savings” in military authorizations comprise some 47% of the overall BRAC NPV “savings”, but they don’t result in actual end strength decreases)

8. Why did the numbers for economic impact change so much in the last months before May 13<sup>th</sup>? (January 2005 showed 3906 direct job losses plus 2688 secondary losses for 6594 or 28 % loss—final figures reflected 2824 direct losses plus 1956 secondary for 4780 total or 20% loss. Why was there such a dramatic change? The community thinks the higher number reflects reality)
9. Did the evaluation of economic impact consider impacts in depth such as effect on schools, minorities, employment of the disabled, medical care in the area, etc? (Since the economic impacts in the Clovis area are much greater than the impact at any other BRAC base, these more detailed considerations should be evaluated)
10. Did the potential for Joint Training operations enter into the Military Value analysis? (Cannon has the potential to support Joint Operations at Ft. Bliss, Ft. Hood, Ft. Carson, and Ft. Sill)
11. Given the current news regarding potential changes to the force structure plan for the Joint Strike Fighter and the F-22, does it follow that the Air Force might need to maintain more F-16s, and thus have a continuing requirement for Cannon AFB?

**Talking Points: Cannon AFB's Role  
Concept for Joint Operations and Training as the Army and Air Force  
Undergo Transformation**

- Cannon Air Force Base (AFB) is an ideal aviation facility for which the Military Capabilities Index (MCI) and true Military Value were not properly evaluated because incorrect, incomplete and misleading data were scored through a flawed Air Force process.
- If data were properly reported and evaluated, Cannon would score well with respect to “Composite Integrated Force Training” because of its own assets and other Service (U.S. Army) military installations in the region.
- Of the six distinctive capabilities<sup>1</sup> of the Air Force, precision engagement is most relevant to fighter units training with Army units. Specifically, Air Interdiction (AI) and Close Air Support (CAS) are essential to joint operations and training including air and ground forces. CAS would typically be worked with a Forward Air Controller – Airborne (FAC-A) or a ground-based Tactical Air Control Party (TACP).
- Cannon’s current F-16 operational mission or any potential fighter aircraft; its location; its un-encroached range complexes and unrestricted airspace for military training are invaluable assets for the mission and training requirements of the transforming future Army. Many training requirements will be generated by the region’s major Army installations: Fort Bliss near El Paso, Texas; Fort Sill near Lawton, Oklahoma; Fort Carson near Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Fort Hood near Killeen, Texas.
- The geographical proximity of Cannon AFB allows the Air Force greater flexibility, value and versatility in training with the Army. For example, the northeast boundary of Fort Bliss’ McGregor Range is about 155 NM southwest of Cannon; Fort Sill’s range, by comparison, is about 220 NM due east of Cannon; Fort Carson is about 270 NM to the northwest, and Fort Hood is about 340 NM to the southeast.
- Proximity to Fort Bliss makes joint training from Cannon AFB both realistic and useful without “out-and-back” scenarios<sup>2</sup> or aerial refueling. Fort Sill can also be supported in a similar fashion, but time on station is reduced because of the greater distance.
- The greater distances to Fort Carson and Fort Hood, while supportable from Cannon AFB for joint operations and training, would require aerial refueling or out-and-back operations for effective resource utilization and meaningful training.
- Given the Army’s military value ranking of its 97 installations, the four Army installations (Forts Bliss, Sill, Hood and Carson) are in the top 19 installations of 97 ranked by the Army,

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<sup>1</sup> The distinctive capabilities flowing from the Air Force’s vision and core competencies are air and space superiority, global attack, rapid global mobility, precision engagement, information superiority and agile combat support.

<sup>2</sup> Aircraft would launch from Cannon AFB, transit to the training range, complete the mission and recover at a nearby suitable airfield. Aircraft would be refueled and serviced, launch for another mission and recover at Cannon AFB.

and Fort Bliss is ranked number one and is well within a routine operating radius for aircraft based at Cannon AFB. The four Army installations also will be home to approximately 28% (12 Brigade Combat Teams/Units of Action—BCT/UA) of the Army's ground maneuver force, a Corps Headquarters (25% of active Army inventory) at Fort Hood and four Division headquarters (1 at Forts Carson and Bliss and 2 at Fort Hood). The four Division Headquarters are 40% (4 of 10) of the Army's command and control elements for maneuver forces.

- Fort Bliss is scheduled to receive the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division and its four BCT/UAs; various echelons above division units from Germany and Korea; maneuver battalions; and a support battalion and aviation units from Fort Hood over the 2006 -2011 time period. Fort Bliss is projected to gain 15,918 military positions and 370 civilian positions.
- Relocating 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division units and echelon above division units to Fort Bliss will transform it from an institutional training installation into a major, mounted-maneuver training installation with significant training requirements matched by excess training capacity and the significant potential for exercising joint operations.
- Cannon AFB would be one of the few active Air Force installations in either New Mexico or Texas capable of providing fighter support for CAS operations and training.
- The McGregor Ranges are integral to the Fort Bliss complex and are well suited to joint CAS operations. Cannon AFB based assets will be routinely able to spend 20 to 30 minutes on station on typical training sorties. The McGregor Range Base Camp is also home to the Army CAS Battalion.
- The northern area of the McGregor Range complex includes the Wilde Benton airstrip. Wilde Benton is a 7,800 foot, hard-packed airstrip capable of handling aircraft up to and including C-130s and C-17s. Coupled with the six Nap-Of-the-Earth (NOE) helicopter training courses and the Cane Cholla helicopter gunnery range, McGregor provides the Army an outstanding training environment which is further enhanced by the capability to utilize Air Force assets as well.
- Fort Sill and its emerging Air Defense Artillery (ADA) mission (the ADA School is recommended to move from Fort Bliss to Fort Sill in BRAC 2005) and proximity to Cannon AFB offers training opportunities for both Army and Air Force assets. Aircraft based at Cannon AFB can periodically offer a realistic threat array to ADA units, and the aircraft can simultaneously practice threat avoidance maneuvers.
- Forts Carson and Hood offer similar opportunities for joint training. However, training missions from Cannon AFB must utilize aerial refueling or conduct out-and-back operations.
- Proximity to and utilization of Army range facilities by Cannon AFB-based assets increase joint understanding between Services and emphasize combined operations through joint training missions. This approach to future contingency operations is a necessity, and it can be exercised whenever needed or desired by maneuver and CAS air assets at Forts Bliss, Sill, Carson and Hood and Cannon AFB.

# Operation KEEP CANNON

August 4, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman  
Defense Base Closure  
& Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202-3920

Dear Chairman Principi:

As you know, the BRAC Commission will hold an additional hearing to question members of the Department of Defense prior to your final deliberations in August. The community of Clovis, NM, respectfully requests that you consider the enclosed questions related to Cannon AFB. We believe these are important to determine the answers to numerous unanswered questions related to Cannon AFB.

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Sincerely,



Randy Harris  
Chairman, Committee of Fifty

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# operation KEEP CANNON

August 4, 2005

The Honorable James H. Bilbray  
Commissioner  
Defense Base Closure  
& Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202-3920

BRAC Commission

AUG 12 2005

Received

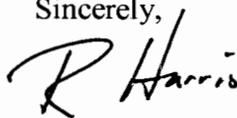
Dear Commissioner Bilbray:

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