

RECEIVED  
5/23/05

KH

May 20, 2005

Dear Honorable James H. Bilbray,

I understand you are on the commission to shut down Cannon Air force base in Clovis, New Mexico. I am writing to you in hopes that this will not happen. I attend Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, New Mexico. The closing of Cannon Air Force Base will greatly affect Clovis, Portales, and even into West Texas. I know many students that attend Eastern that are military wives, and I know there are many, many more that I do not know. Cannon Air force base has won numerous awards on the ACC level, Air force and NAF levels, and national and STAT levels. There are three key points that I will be discussing: Air space and weather conditions, Melrose bombing range, and How beneficial Cannon Air Force Base is to retired military personnel.

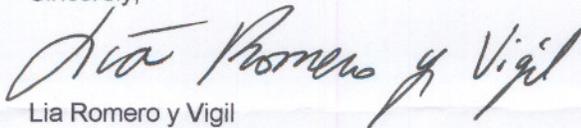
Eastern New Mexico has a key ingredient in the Air force and that is wide-open space for flying. Having this provides for safer and realistic training scenarios. Cannon also has ample space to accommodate surge force requirements in training and emergency situations. The weather in Eastern New Mexico provides for year round training ability. The availability of air space and ideal flying weather makes Cannon the perfect candidate, not for closure, but to support future training missions for the F-22, Joint Strike Fighter, and other military aircraft.

The Melrose bombing range is within seconds of the runway the pilots use for training. Because the bombing range is within seconds of the runway, our pilots do not have to waste gas to get to the bombing range, train, and go back to the base. Now how many Air Force bases can you say has that kind of accommodations?

Around Clovis, Portales, and even Western Texas (this including Amarillo and Lubbock), there are many retired military personnel. These people rely on Cannon Air force base for healthcare, grocery shopping, and much more. There is not another installation close by to serve our beloved retired military personnel.

I appreciate your consideration to keep Cannon Air Force Base open. If you close Cannon down, you are not only affecting those on the base, but you are also affecting the towns of Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, and Western Texas. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Lia Romero y Vigil