



DCN 7434

Knights of Columbus

Fourth Degree

FATHER BONIFACE SACK, O.F.M. ASSEMBLY, No. 1686

P.O. Box 165

Clovis, NM 88102

BRAC Commission

Meeting
Third Sunday
Of Month
At 4:00 P.M.

Assembly Home
2830 East 21st Street

Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

AUG 15 2005

Received

Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.:

The Fourth degree membership of the Father Boniface Sack, O.F.M. Assembly, No 1686 of the Knights of Columbus question the reasoning used in the development of the latest list of proposed military base closures. Cannon Air Force Base has served a strategic mission since its inception, training pilots in a variety of tactical areas. The airspace around CAFB is not congested and with the wonderful weather in New Mexico, training is possible almost every day of the year.

Because of the availability of air space and ideal flying weather, CAFB is the perfect location to support training for the F-16 and future-training missions for the F-22, Joint Strike Fighter, and other military aircraft. With the New Mexico Training Range Initiative Cannon will be able to provide supersonic training missions at the adjacent Melrose bombing range.

The relationship that Cannon Air Force Base has with the local community indicates strong support for the base and a commitment to the strategic role it plays in our military. The local community has purchased air easements around the base and given them to the Air Force; and purchased land for the development of housing units and for installation of instrument lighting and this property was also given to the Air Force.

The impact of closing Cannon Air Force Base will be felt throughout eastern New Mexico and west Texas. Local officials estimate that it will have a devastating effect on the local economies of Clovis and Portales, New Mexico and the effects will be felt in Amarillo and Lubbock, Texas.

Additionally, it will have dramatic consequences on living conditions because Cannon personnel and family members volunteer thousands of hours each year to organizations in the surrounding communities, including mentoring and tutoring of local schoolchildren, participating in civic activities, helping scouting groups, churches and veterans organizations, etc. The public and private schools, Eastern New Mexico University and Clovis Community College, will feel the ramifications.

We request that you remove Cannon Air Force Base from the closure list because of the strategic mission it serves, the ideal conditions for training, the local support for the base and the devastating economic impact it will have in the region. The entire area, including Amarillo and Lubbock is home to a large military retiree population. These retirees rely on CAFB for health care, grocery shopping and emotional support.

Respectfully,

Jesse Alvarez
Faithful Navigator

Letter approved at the July 16, 2005 meeting.



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FATHER BONIFACE SACK, O.F.M. ASSEMBLY, No. 1686

P.O. Box 165
Clovis, NM 88102

Honorable James H. Bilbray
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Honorable James H. Bilbray:

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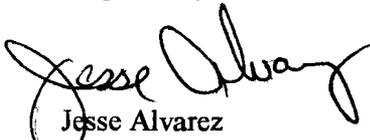
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Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chair
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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Brigadier General Sue E. Turner
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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Honorable James V. Hansen
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General James T. Hill
BRAC Commission
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Honorable Samuel K. Skinner
BRAC Commission
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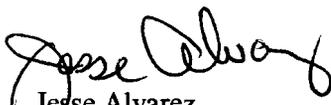
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Honorable Philip Coyle
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
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