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BRAC Commission

AUG 22 2005

Received

August 13, 2005

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

Dear Sir:

I appreciate your service on the BRAC Commission.

My purpose in writing is to restate the arguments against closing Cannon AFB. Located near Clovis, New Mexico.

My reasons for opposing the closing are:

1. **It risks national security.** The Pentagon argues that closing bases to consolidate bases will save money. However it risks considerable waste, with national security in the balance. This consolidation is a tactical error. In a terrorist era, providing them with a few large targets maximizes the chance of major success with relatively small attacks. We all recall Pearl Harbor where the Fleet was gathered, and the planes located primarily at Hickam, and Wheeler Fields, where they were bunched together. In 1983, the Marine Barracks in Lebanon were a significantly large target for a relatively small attack. The 9-11 devastation reveals that of 5 attacks on large targets, three were devastating. Creating large bases is not the same as creating easy-to-defend bases.

2. **It violates at least the spirit of the THIRD AMENDMENT.** The withdrawal of Cannon AFB violates the spirit of the 3rd Amendment in its economic devastation of local homes. Since the founding of the country, the increased influence of bases which dominate a community means they achieve a *de facto* domination of a significant number of the homes in that community. In a community like Clovis-Portales, Cannon AFB dominates approximately 1/3 of the economy. {No instructions from Congress to ignore economic consequences can override the nature of the Constitutional protections against this sort of action.} Secretary Rumsfeld has openly declared that closing the base is being proposed for *economic* reasons, and that he will move to close it as quickly as possible. Closing Cannon as soon as possible will insure basically the same ruinous economic effect as forcing people to house troops. Thus, the Secretary is proposing the very ruin which the 3rd Amendment was designed to protect against.

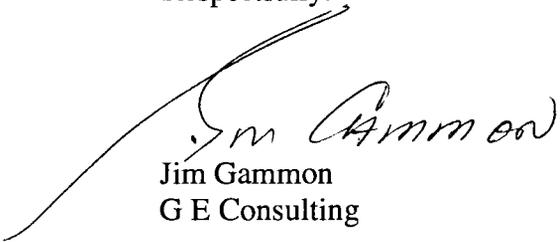
3. **It is militarily unjustified.** The Pentagon has been unsuccessful in defending its rationale to close Cannon. Their original analysis was flawed, and they have been unable to dem-

onstrate any justifiable reason since then. With one technical exception (namely that live ammunition is restricted on the firing range), they do not seem to have any case. Rather, information available to the public generally proves that Cannon is precisely the kind of base needed for future expansion.

These are serious flaws in the Proposal to close Cannon Air Force Base. At the least, they demonstrate Cannon should be left off the Closure List for this round of closings, in order to conduct a review of their analytic procedures. At best, this letter demonstrates that Cannon should be left intact and its mission enhanced.

Thank you again for your service.

Respectfully:



Jim Gammon
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NATIONAL 
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August 19, 2005

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Philip E. Coyle III
BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202

RE: Cannon Air Force Base

Dear Commissioner Coyle:

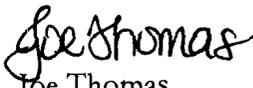
I would like to add my organization's comments in support of not closing Cannon Air Force Base.

For the past several years, the National Wild Turkey Federation has conducted a wildlife fundraising banquet in Clovis through its local affiliate, the Llano y Estacado Chapter. As a result of these events, the NWTF has been able to raise many thousands of dollars for not only wildlife habitat improvement in New Mexico, but also for our outreach programs for kids, women and the disabled, including many disabled veterans!

The closure of Cannon is sure to have a significant impact on the success of these fund-raising efforts. I would like to urge you to make every effort to overturn this decision by the Department of Defense. Cannon has and should continue to be a place not only for our currently military to train and provide security for our country but a place where our retired veterans can use for medical and other services.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,


Joe Thomas
Committee Member