

BRAC panel should see process through

I can't believe four Base Realignment and Closure commissioners decided to recuse themselves from voting on BRAC Commission



"The BRAC Commission was created to provide an objective, thorough, accurate, and non-partisan review and analysis, through a process determined by law, of the list of bases and military installa-

I also expect that the Commission's review and votes be based solely on the facts and a fair and non-partisan vote. We all have opinions and some may think the commissioners

from a fair and impartial review.

**Patrick F. Flanigen
Clovis**

operation

KEEP CANNON

(www.brac.gov):

assigned.

BRAC closure list will benefit

Cannon perfect for unmanned planes

The strategy proposed by local supporters to keep Cannon Air Force Base may be defective. Here's a more logical idea: Encourage Base Realignment and Closure commissioners to make Cannon home to a fleet of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).

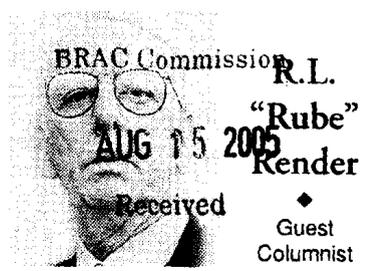
Cannon supporters have suggested closing the Naval Air Station at Oceana in Virginia, moving those planes to Moody Air Force Base in Georgia, then moving planes assigned to Moody to Cannon.

A lot of dominoes have to fall for Cannon to remain open under that scenario.

To keep Cannon open, we must demonstrate to BRAC commissioners that the cost of closing the base exceeds the anticipated savings that would occur as a result of the closure — or we must propose a new and critical mission for Cannon that is not being performed elsewhere.

Cannon supporters should focus on that second option.

Although the Air Force is drastically reducing its number of piloted aircraft, the number of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles will explode over the next 10 years. These planes can be used for close air support, surveillance, bombing and other missions without placing our military person-



nel in harm's way.

The Air Force plans to deploy an undetermined number of UAVs to Grand Forks AFB in North Dakota: The addition of Cannon as a UAV facility would enhance the nation's Homeland Security mission.

Grand Forks UAV assets could provide Border Patrol assistance and surveillance on the northern border while Cannon would provide those same functions on the southern border. There is a rational argument to be made that the Southern border is the more critical of the two.

Air Force personnel would find a ready-made, real-time training scenario available on both borders. U.S. Border Patrol personnel could also train at either facility, and could house and maintain any UAV assets they acquire for exclusive Border Patrol use at the appropriate base.

Separating UAV assets geographi-

cally also makes sense from a security aspect.

Cannon would be an ideal home for UAVs for the following reasons:

- Unfettered airspace is critical for successful UAV training.

- New Mexico's terrain is consistent with that of current areas of hostile operations outside the Continental United States — from the desert to the mountains.

- And, of course, the Air Force considers the Melrose Bombing Range an asset whether Cannon remains open or not.

BRAC commissioners on July 19 decided to add Oceana to the list of installations it will consider for closure.

However, commissioners determined that several factors prevent the movement of Oceana to Moody: lack of an ocean environment for training purposes; lack of available housing; lack of airspace; and a community that could not readily absorb the incoming population such a move would entail.

So movement of assets from Moody to Cannon seems unlikely.

Moving assets from any other base to Cannon is also unlikely as the Department of Defense already has outlined plans for moving planes from closed facilities.

Using Cannon to house UAVs

makes more sense.

The Marine Corps Air Ground Training Center in California and the Army's Fort Irwin at Barstow, Calif., are home to two of the largest Combined Arms Exercises in the country. Closer to home, Fort Bliss and Fort Hood (both in Texas) hold regularly scheduled exercises.

The addition of UAVs into their training scenarios would provide invaluable experience to our ground units. The same is true of military bases across the southern United States.

The U.S. military will not long retain the advantage of being the only armed force with UAV assets available. The number of UAVs is certain to increase in the coming decades. Their pluses as well as their minuses should be demonstrated to opposing commanders in any scheduled Combined Arms Exercise.

This could be accomplished using UAVs housed and maintained at Cannon AFB. Cannon is geographically and strategically situated to play a leading role in this vital mission.

R.L. "Rube" Render is a retired Marine gunnery sergeant. Contact him at:

rube.render@actsnm.com

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BRAC Commission

Dear Brac Commission

8 Aug 05
AUG 15 2005

Received

Thank you for all the work you're doing. I've watched late night C-Span hearings from all over the United States and can tell the data used to make the 1st list obviously missed some of the factors that the base supporters feel is vital to keep their bases viable.

My concerns are giving up valuable open military real estate in the states that are still sparsely populated and moving resources to areas congested with people, buildings and traffic. The costs of living for USAF, Army, Navy

and Marines to move to these areas must be out of sight. What happens to the bases that are closed that are still not given to the local cities? There was a newspaper article stating 2870 of land is still not in the hands of local authorities due to clean up costs after the last BRAC rounds. Maybe closing down a few more Asian + European bases, bringing troops home 1st and their holding a BRAC to close US bases would be a bit more in line with the "cut + horse" theory.

(2)

I know the cost to run the war on terrorism cost a lot of money that was not in the budget and the military commanders must tighten their belts and help the Major Commands + Headquarters get through the fiscal year. There are certainly places that could use a trim - good luck on all the decisions you must make - my head would be spinning if presented!

Sincerely

SMsgt Loreta Canada/USAF/Retired
Cannon Air Force Base

New Mexico

RE: FOR CLOSING CANNON AIR BASE
AT CLOVIS, N.MEX.

Aug 10, 2005
BRAC Commission

Dear Sen or Madam;

AUG 15 2005

They want additional reasons why Cannon ^{Received} should be closed? I'll give you and them some. Since 1985 there have been 6-8 airplane crashes within 100 miles of Cannon, most of them less than 80 miles from Cannon - 2 in housing area just NW of the base - narrowly missing houses. Nearly all of planes have been from Cannon - not other bases. About 50 miles NW of Cannon there are 168 wind generator towers, 200+ feet tall. Cannon already been warned to keep planes up high. Backlash from jets has ruined several already. Cannon owns 10-20 trailer houses at Conchas Lake and at Ate Lake. How were they bought? Appropriations are for use on base only - not off the base. They are being maintained. Under what code in Cannon paying for upkeep of them? It is misuse of Federal funds to fund housing for fun and pleasure, that is not located on base. This is only 3rd time Cannon has participated in Roving Sands Battle Exercise. They didn't want to participate in them, until they were forced to. They have no pure water supply. Tucuman and other towns have not approved pipeline to bring water to Clovis + Portales. Where are they going to get water when they run out? There is uncontrolled use of water in their

area. They say they have support of other towns, They are lying. Especially in this area. What money have they spent here in our stores? May stop for gas, but that is all. They don't shop or live here. When jobs are open on the base they are not advertised in local newspaper. People call their friends and they are given priority over others from nearby towns. Eliteism & Favoritism to nth degree!!!

We have NASA here at air base in Ft Sumner, N.M. In fact they want to expand their operations. This is where they launch balloons with test equipment on them, for future space missions. We see more military people on NASA projects here than anyone from Cannon. They're usually from Houston, Florida or California. Cannon has lost 1 wing already. The Taiwan fighter wing has returned home to Taiwan. So there is only 2 wings at Cannon Air Base now. Their reasons for being kept are non-existent - purely for their own profit - no one else's. Where is manufacturing to support base people when they leave service? They've had since Viet Nam to get it in there. Only 1-chess plant - for all those years!!!

I am Donald Morris. I live in Ft Sumner, N.M. & spent 6 years in Army 1965-1971. As know as much about Cannon as anyone, as I was in Military Intelligence - Army.

Sincerely yours,
Donald Morris

Turn over

BRAC Commission

AUG 16 2005

Received

BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Regarding: Removing Cannon AFB from the BRAC list

Dear BRAC Commissioner:

I am very concerned about the Department of Defense's recommendation that Cannon Air Force Base should be closed.

I want to help make the Commission fully aware of the unique attributes that Cannon offers to our national defense. These include unencroached airspace suitable for training at supersonic speed, many new and existing facilities suitable for joint training exercises, and a low-cost environment that promotes cost-efficient training. Cannon is a real asset to the country's armed forces.

Whether or not Cannon's military value has been recognized yet in Washington, out here we really appreciate the base. The local community has been uniquely supportive, donating time and land to promote the base's needs. We have also welcomed the personnel. The many veterans in the area make it clear that they feel at home here. We consider Cannon and its retirees a part of our family.

The closure of Cannon will also have a devastating impact on our economy. It has been estimated that the area will lose at least 20 percent of its workforce, a percentage out of line with the effect of base closings in other communities. Cannon is critical for us.

I invite you to come personally to the Cannon hearing in Clovis. I ask you please to reconsider Cannon's importance to the nation and to my community. Please, let us KEEP CANNON!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Billy W. Goode
Roswell, NM

AUGUST 4, 2005

BRAC COMMISSIONERS

FAX 703-699-2735

PLEASE VOTE TO REMOVE CANNON FROM THE LIST.

MOST OF YOU HAVE BEEN HERE AND SEEN THE

POSSIBILITIES THAT CANNON CAN PROVIDE FOR THE

FUTURE SAFETY OF OUR COUNTRY.

***TILLIE SHAW, EXEC. VICE PRES.
CLOVIS BOARD OF REALTORS, INC.***

August 6, 2005

AUG 16 2005

Received

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

Dear General Turner,

I am writing you concerning the closing of Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico.

I have listed the following facts about the criteria to close Cannon and the actual facts:

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RI). The Air Force
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fighter mission category; an accurate scoring would rank Cannon AFB 2nd.

Cost Savings:

Cannon is among one of the lowest operating cost fighter bases in CONUS. DOD calculated cost savings as \$2.7 billion (NPV) over 20 years. Cost savings, in fact, are only about \$150 million (NPV).

Economic Impact:

DOD underestimated the economic impact of closing Cannon by reporting an incorrect, lower number of military personnel and civilians than are currently stationed at the base. The actual economic impact would devastate Clovis and surrounding communities for a lifetime. DOD reported 20 percent, while the actual adverse impact is greater than 30 percent.

FORCE STRUCTURE

Cannon is an irreplaceable asset and offers invaluable future flexibility and versatility. Future Force Structure must consider issues such as: Strategic Depth, Joint Training, Contingency Operations, Possible Future Missions, and Quality of Life/ Retention Issues. Cannon supports all of these areas.

I would hope with the above facts that you would vote to remove Cannon from the Closure List.

Sincerely,



**Ida Lou Combs
1506 Davis Road
Portales, New Mexico 88130**

BRAC Commission

AUG 18 2005

Received

Marie M. Green
7307 Patriot Drive
Flagstaff, AZ 86004
16 August 2005

Dear BRAC Council

I do hope you will read this letter that I have written to you regarding the base closures. This is troublesome as our defense system is being taken away again. Many years ago we had a nice ADC coverage along the east coast and that was taken away. Given to the National Guard this is totally absurd for the reason that this is far and few between any more. I believe in President Bush and stand behind him in every thing he does for our country.

My husband put in 20 years in the Air Force and another 13 years in the Federal Government. He as well as other retired military men and women and their dependents need all the military bases that are active now. A lot of them have retired near the active bases to use their military privileges that they were promised and counted on. Beside that a lot of them are getting to be senior citizens and can not afford to move to another base. For example:

Cannon AFB is as you know located in Clovis, NM. Cannon is Clovis and when you take this base away you will do a lot of damage to their economy, This bit about saving \$50M or more for closing all this bases is really very false, it takes more than that to close any base and to move military personal. Someone is cutting their nose off to spite their face.

The realignment of moving these planes of 130's to another base is totally asinine I don't know who thought they could pull the wool over the peoples faces as well as yours. I don't think this is the wisest thing to do. Some one is not paying attention to the damage they are planning to do. I for one do not want this procedure to become law through Congress; we need all these bases for the future of our country. Don't put our beloved country in jeopardy; we need all the protection we have now.

Because of the closure of the ADC units, we only have 1 base that has these birds? That is very scary, had the Dover, McGuire, Loring, AFB's had these fighters we might have had a fighting chance on 9-11. But the terrorists did their homework and knew what they could do because of the loose of these squadrons.

I know all of this board has been in the Government in some way and you were asking such good questions and didn't get through to these people you were talking too. I for one do not like bean counters that resemble McNamara and the Assistant Secretary of Defense is just like him. Please do not make this mistake again. We DO NEED ALL THE BASES ON THE CLOSURE LIST kept open this is for the good of our country. Congress and the President have places to go to in the event of emergency but we the people do not have this protection at all. Please help us all military and civilians by not

closing these bases any where here in the states. In case someone isn't watching, terrorists can come across through Canada and Alaska.

I think also that the President said to "use your minds" not loose them. Using the National Guard for the Iraq War isn't the best either, we are loosing them by the dozens. We need to get more people in the services this modern AF is moving back to World War !!, we do not need to be that low again. We still do not have our space ships for the future or their bases built yet. Things just do not look right to me.

Hopefully this letter lets you know that the people are watching and hoping that you don't close the hit list. The President needs to look good but this isn't the way to go. Putting people out of work is the last thing he wants to do or at least that is how I think he feels. I don't think the whole picture has been looked at. Stop counting service people as beans and help them keep their jobs.

Sincerely,

Marie M. Green

Marie M. Green

A Proud & Devoted to America military dependent

G E CONSULTING
1412 Eastridge Drive
Clovis, New Mexico 88101
505 - 763-4549

BRAC Commission

AUG 18 2005

Received

August 13, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
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. Thank you for considering these matters.

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.

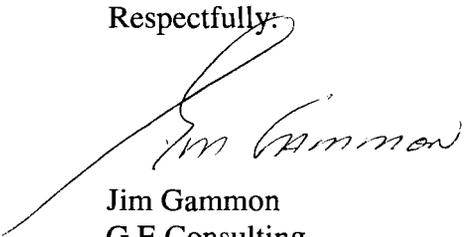
3. **It is militarily unjustified.** The Pentagon has been unsuccessful in defending its rationale to close Cannon. Their original analysis was flawed, and they have been unable to dem-

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:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Gammon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Respectfully:".

Jim Gammon
G E Consulting

JG: tm

G E CONSULTING
1412 Eastridge Drive
Clovis, New Mexico 88101
505 - 763-4549

August 13, 2005

The Honorable Philip Coyle
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.

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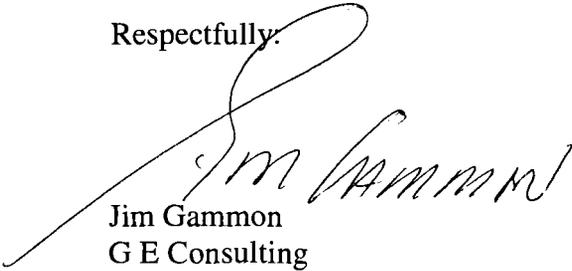
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Jim Gammon
G E Consulting

JG: tm

G E CONSULTING

1412 Eastridge Drive
Clovis, New Mexico 88101
505 - 763-4549

BRAC Commission

AUG 18 2005

Received

August 13, 2005

General James T. Hill
BRAC COMMISSION
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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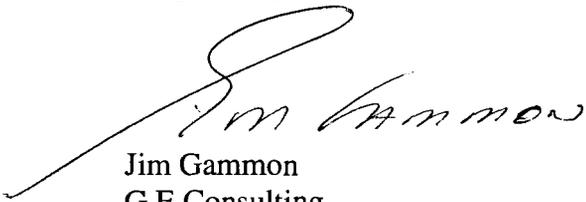
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BRAC Commission

AUG 18 2005

Received

August 13, 2005

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

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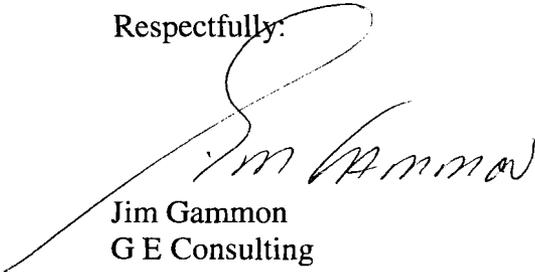
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G E CONSULTING
1412 Eastridge Drive
Clovis, New Mexico 88101
505 - 763-4549

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

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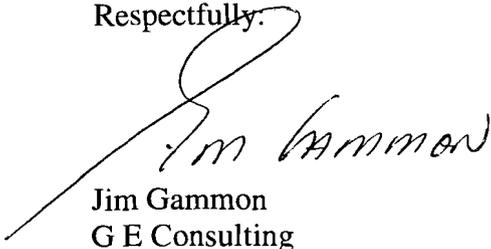
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1. **It risks national security.** The Pentagon argues that closing bases to consolidate bases will save money. However it risks considerable waste, with national security in the balance. This consolidation is a tactical error. In a terrorist era, 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.

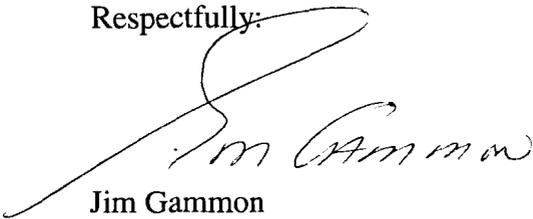
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Thank you again for your service.

Respectfully:

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Jim Gammon
G E Consulting

JG: tm

BRAC Commission

AUG 18 2005

Received

G E CONSULTING
1412 Eastridge Drive
Clovis, New Mexico 88101
505 - 763-4549

August 13, 2005

The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner
BRAC COMMISSION
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

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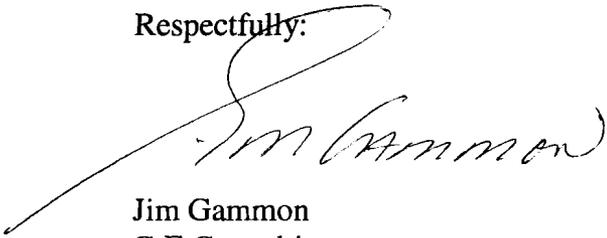
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Jim Gammon
G E Consulting

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AUG 18 2005

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G E CONSULTING

1412 Eastridge Drive
Clovis, New Mexico 88101
505 - 763-4549

August 13, 2005

General Lloyd W. Newton
BRAC COMMISSION
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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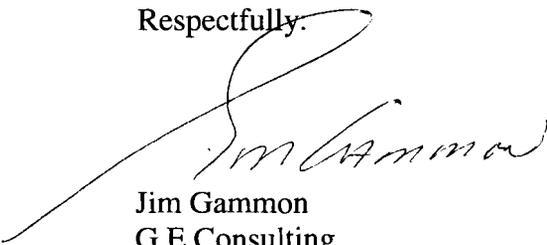
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Jim Gammon
G E Consulting

JG: tm

PATRICK A. SEARS, P.E.
1804 Glenarm Dr
Clovis, NM 88101

BRAC Commission

AUG 11 2005

Received

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Gentlemen

I wish to comment on the proposed closing of Cannon AFB, New Mexico. I have been a civilian member of the 27th Civil Engineering Squadron at Cannon for the last twenty one years. I wish to assure you that I am not writing this in order to save my job. I have recently accepted a new position at Holloman AFB, so I am not in the position of having to keep Cannon open in order to save my job.

Since I started at Cannon in 1984 I have seen the base go from a collection of World War II buildings to a base which is one of the most modern in the Air Force. In those twenty one years, we have replaced almost all of the facilities. For almost twenty of those twenty one years I was Cannon's pavements engineers. During my time at Cannon, we have rebuilt runway 13/31 twice, added 1200' of concrete to each end, rebuilt runway 04/22, built several new taxiways, rehabilitated all of the others, and added approximately 30% to the aircraft parking apron.

When I started, hangars 194, 195, and 196 were the newest hangars on the airfield. They are now the oldest. All of the other hangars have been built within that time period, most since 1988. We are currently in the process of adding an ILS system to runway 13/31, and, with the addition of approach lighting at both ends, we now have two all-weather runways. I would also add that most of these facilities were built when the mission aircraft was the F-111. What that means is that the facilities were built for aircraft with a wingspan of 67' vs. the F-16 with a wingspan of only 32'. What were built as two-bay hangars for the F-111s are now three-bay hangars. This implies that Cannon would be a good fit for aircraft such as the F-15.

Almost all of the buildings on base have been replaced. I do not believe that any major unit is now housed in a facility more than twenty years old.

Cannon's infrastructure has also been mostly replaced in the twenty one years that I have been here. We recently completed a complete refurbishment of the base sanitary sewers. Most of the gas distribution system has been replaced with modern materials. The waste water treatment plant is not yet 10 years old. Cannon provides its own water.

Plans are under way (a project has been authorized to replace most of the remaining POL storage and distribution system) for other improvements, which, if the base stays open, would add to its operational efficiency.

I don't believe that there are many other bases in existence that can match Cannon for the quality of its facilities. I am of the belief that it would be a very great waste of an excellent facility to close this base.

Some have commented on the lack of "things to do" in Clovis. Having lived in San Francisco, Los Angeles, El Paso, and Houston, I can honestly say that we may not have all of the attractions, but we also don't have the problems.

So to summarize, I believe that it would be a disservice to the country and to the Air Force to close Cannon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick A. Sears', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Patrick A. Sears

BRAC Commission

AUG 11 2005

Received