

DEN 3021

May 23, 2005

BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, STE 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Jerry Byrd
3733 Sam Snead
Clovis, NM 88101

RECEIVED
05312005

Ref: Cannon Air Force Base

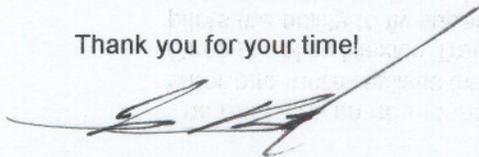
To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of Clovis, I am very much concerned about the closure of the base. Do to the economic impact of the community I think it would be a very detrimental move to our community. Clovis has always supported Cannon and our military. We love our country and care about the security of it. I do not believe that Cannon should close due to the following reasons:

Cannon does not fit the criteria provided for base closure.

- The base has an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues. This provides for safer and more realistic training scenarios for pilots.
- Once the New Mexico Training Range Initiative is implemented, we will be able to offer pilots the ability to fly supersonic during training missions. This is a very important point, as it allows the Air Force to better train for real-life situations.
- The weather in Eastern New Mexico provides year round training ability.
- The Melrose bombing range is seconds from the end of the runway at Cannon. This allows pilots to get airborne, and immediately begin training operations over the bombing range, rather than spending all of their fuel just to get to the range, having one pass over, then returning to the base.
- Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war-fighting, training, and readiness as was evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy.
- Cannon has ample space/ramp space to accommodate surge force requirements in training and emergency situations.
- The availability of air space and ideal flying weather makes Cannon the perfect candidate to support future training missions for the F-22, Joint Strike Fighter, and other military aircraft.
- Cannon has won countless awards, both on ACC level, Air Force and NAF levels, and national and STAT levels.
- The relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and the surrounding towns; Clovis, Portales, West Texas, and others, is unlike any other installation in the country.
- Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, West Texas (including Amarillo and Lubbock) are home to a large military retiree population. These people rely on Cannon Air Force base for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close by to serve our retired military.

Thank you for your time!



Jerry Byrd