

RECEIVED
05312005

May 31, 2005

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

Dear Commissioner Skinner:

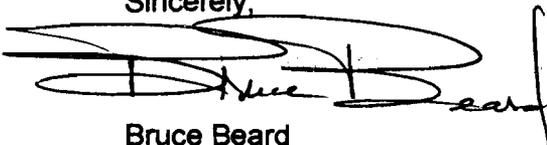
I urge you to overturn the Department of Defense's BRAC recommendation to close Cannon Air Force Base.

Cannon Air Force Base should not be on the BRAC closure list for many reasons. I've listed some of the key reasons below:

- Cannon does not fit the criteria provided for base closure.
- In the early 90s, Curry County, in conjunction with the state of New Mexico, purchased air easements around Cannon Air Force base and Gave them to the Air Force. This was done to protect that airspace from encroachment and was an important issue for the Air Force.
- 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
- 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.

In summary, the Clovis, Portales and surrounding communities have reached out and supported Cannon Air Force Base like no other community over the last 50 years. We've done so financially, morally, spiritually and above all consistently. The continued operation of Cannon Air Force Base is not only extremely important for this region, but for the Nation as a whole. Respectfully, I urge you to vote to remove Cannon Air Force Base from the BRAC closure list.

Sincerely,



Bruce Beard
2200 Miller
Clovis, New Mexico 88101

May 31, 2005

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

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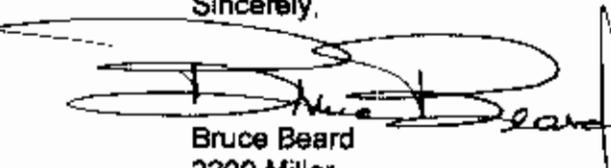
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