

**John and Noelle Bartl
1586 Simmacher Rd.
Portales, NM 88130
505-359-0171**

**Operation
KEEP CANNON**

May 19, 2005

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

Dear General Lloyd W. Newton:

This letter is in support of keeping Cannon Air Force Base open. Cannon does not appear to fit the criteria provided for base closure.

I have lived and traveled much in my life and have never found people friendlier and more supportive of their local military base than the Clovis and Portales communities.

Eastern New Mexico is an ideal location to maintain a military base. The weather in New Mexico provides for year round training. The Melrose bombing range is seconds away from Cannon. In the early 1990's, Curry County, in conjunction with the state of New Mexico purchased air easements around Cannon and gave them to the Air Force. This was done to protect the air space from encroachment.

The local community spearheaded the effort to expand and convert the airspace to supersonic capabilities through the New Mexico Training Range Initiative. Once the New Mexico Training Range Initiative is implemented, Cannon will be able to offer pilots the ability to fly supersonic during training missions. This 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 the space and facilities to accommodate joint warfare training and readiness as well as an opportunity to expand the base in the future if necessary.

It has been estimated that the closing of Cannon will cost this area the loss of more jobs, percentage-wise, than any other area in the country. The closing of Cannon would have a serious ripple effect on the economy of the entire state and West Texas. Closing Cannon would also seriously effect education in the area including the public schools, Eastern New Mexico University and Clovis Community College.

Come see for yourself, what a difference Cannon Air Force Base makes in our community. I hope that you will agree that Cannon does not fit the BRAC Commission's criteria for closing a base. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue affecting our community.

Sincerely,



Noelle Bartl

RECEIVED
5/25/05

**John and Noelle Bartl
1586 Sinnacher Rd.
Portales, NM 88130
505-359-0171**



May 19, 2005

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

Dear Honorable Samuel K. Skinner:

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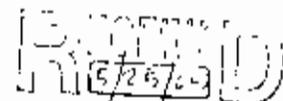
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General James T. Hill
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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5/23/05

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May 19, 2005

Honorable Philip Coyle
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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