

DCN 1212



# New Mexico State Senate

State Capital  
Santa Fe

COMMITTEES:

MEMBER:

- Education
- Committees' Committee
- Judiciary

**SENATOR MICHAEL S. SANCHEZ**  
MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER  
D-Valencia-29

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May 17, 2005

**ORIGINAL**



Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

RE: Cannon Air Force Base

Dear Chairman Principi,

Over the next several months you will, no doubt, hear plenty from New Mexico residents about the reasons why Cannon Air Force Base should remain open. In anticipation of the Secretary of Defense recommendations to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) committee, we heard about the criteria that would be used to guide the recommendation and decision process.

Cannon Air Force Base provides the military a long-term site with no encroachment, low overhead and unlimited airspace. The opportunity to grow Cannon Air Force Base is unlimited and would be one of the few places in the United States that could be home to a range for supersonic flights. Moving Cannon's assets to larger cities in Utah, Nevada and Maryland will only complicate encroachment issues and increase costs for the military. In addition, the flying weather in Eastern New Mexico and West Texas allows for more flying days than the areas where you are suggesting redeployment.

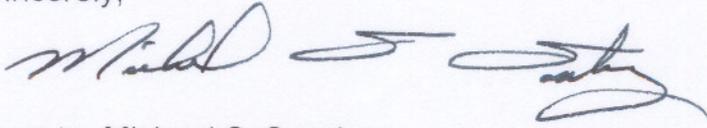
Please take a strong look at what has been called "fuzzy math" in the Cost of Base Realignment (COBRA) formula. The estimated 4,700 jobs generated by the air force base is scratching the surface when you look at the number of lives that will be forever impacted by this recommendation to close Cannon Air Force Base. While economic impact to a community is not a part of your criteria, for a community like Clovis, an estimated annual economic impact of \$200 million is devastating to the

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economy.

I applaud that your commission will rise above politics to look at the recommendations in a fresh light.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Sanchez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent.

Senator Michael S. Sanchez  
Senate Majority Floor Leader  
District 29

MSS/sgl

cc: The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Jeff Bingaman, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Tom Udall, U.S. Representative, 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District  
The Honorable Heather Wilson, U.S. Representative, 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District  
The Honorable Steve Pearce, 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District  
The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense  
The Honorable Clinton D. Harden, Jr., New Mexico State Senator  
The Honorable Stuart Ingle, New Mexico State Senator  
The Honorable Anna M. Crook, New Mexico State Representative  
The Honorable Brian K. Moore, New Mexico State Representative  
The Honorable David Lansford, Mayor of Clovis  
The Honorable Orlando Ortega Jr., Mayor of Portales