



June 3, 2005

06102005

Brenda S. Reader
1724 Imperial Ct.
Clovis, NM 88101-8633

General James T. Hill,

Sir, I am very concerned that the security of the United States could be seriously compromised if Cannon AFB were to be closed at this particular time!

Cannon AFB is an extremely important piece of our country's national defense, both present and in the future. I believe the closing of Cannon AFB, NM as suggested by the Department of Defense, can only be a mistake. It is quite possible those making that decision did not have all the available, pertinent information available, because the fact is, Cannon AFB does not fit the published criteria provided for determining base closures.

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At Cannon AFB the US is afforded the space and facilities to accommodate any joint war fighting and training effort imaginable, as evidenced by the recent Roving Sands joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy. All of the major runways have recently been rebuilt, and are capable of handling any aircraft in the inventory including the largest carrier or bomber aircraft.

Cannon's sparsely populated area would be easily defended if the need were to arise. Large cities like Las Vegas and Phoenix would be a disaster. The civilian casualties could be enormous. Mega Bases in areas like these could result in them being identified as valid targets. I'd think that if the United States were to be attacked, it would be easier to set up defenses in fields rather than in someone's back yard.

As a retiree who stayed here, I know that Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, West Texas (including Amarillo and Lubbock), and many of the outlying cities are home to a very large military retiree population. Many retirees rely on Cannon Air Force Base to enjoy the use of earned benefits such as healthcare, pharmaceutical, grocery shopping, and much more. There is not another installation close to enable our retired military to receive their promised benefits.

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The surrounding communities support the military effort at the base and would expend all efforts to support any future mission. Within the last few years, our community purchased land west of Cannon and gave it back to the Air Force for the installation of instrument lighting on the alternate runway at the base.

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Sincerely,



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MSgt USAF, Retired

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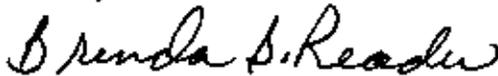
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MSgt USAF, Retired

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06/20/2005

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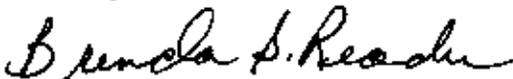
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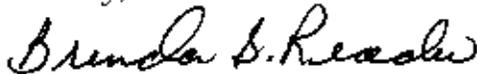
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MSgt USAF, Retired

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Clovis, NM 88101-8633

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Brigadier General Sue E. Turner,

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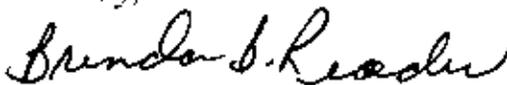
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Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr.,

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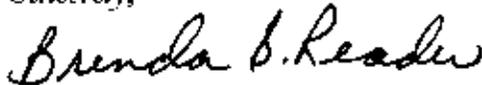
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I am very concerned that the security of the United States could be seriously compromised if Cannon AFB were to be closed at this particular time!

Cannon AFB is an extremely important piece of our country's national defense, both present and in the future. I believe the closing of Cannon AFB, NM as suggested by the Department of Defense, can only be a mistake. It is quite possible those making that decision did not have all the available, pertinent information available, because the fact is, Cannon AFB does not fit the published criteria provided for determining base closures.

Cannon AFB is one of few bases that has virtually unlimited air space and it is located where additional land is readily available for expansion to accommodate any future mission. 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 specifically to protect that air space from encroachment. As a result, Cannon AFB has absolutely no encroachment problems, unlike bases built in large urban or metropolitan areas. Just seconds from take-off, a pilot can enter Melrose Range, one of the largest training ranges in the Southwest. This allows the pilot the opportunity to immediately begin his training operations, thus saving on fuel and other costs associated with flying times needed to make and then use a distant range, then return to home base. In a few short weeks, when the New Mexico Training Range initiative is finalized, aircraft will be able to fly supersonic, offering a very realistic training scenario, for any aircraft in the remaining military inventory. I really don't see how training could get much more realistic than being able to fly and practice the way you would actually have to in a real war time scenario.

At Cannon AFB the US is afforded the space and facilities to accommodate any joint war fighting and training effort imaginable, as evidenced by the recent Roving Sands joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy. All of the major runways have recently been rebuilt, and are capable of handling any aircraft in the inventory including the largest carrier or bomber aircraft.

Cannon's sparsely populated area would be easily defended if the need were to arise. Large cities like Las Vegas and Phoenix would be a disaster. The civilian casualties could be enormous. Mega Bases in areas like these could result in them being identified as valid targets. I'd think that if the United States were to be attacked, it would be easier to set up defenses in fields rather than in someone's back yard.

As a retiree who stayed here, I know that Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, West Texas (including Amarillo and Lubbock), and many of the outlying cities are home to a very large military retiree population. Many retirees rely on Cannon Air Force Base to enjoy the use of earned benefits such as healthcare, pharmaceutical, grocery shopping, and much more. There is not another installation close to enable our retired military to receive their promised benefits.

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, and I've been stationed at bases on both coasts, and in the northern and the southern parts of the US. The surrounding communities support the military effort at the base and would expend all efforts to support any future mission. - Within the last few years, our community purchased land west of Cannon and gave it back to the Air Force for the installation of instrument lighting on the alternate runway at the base.

Closing Cannon AFB will not save money, really just the opposite; it will cost more, if we allow this valuable base to close. By the time the mistake has been realized, it will be too late, and the damage done. I think the F-22 aircraft would be a perfect match for Cannon AFB, similar to what Holloman AFB provided for the F-117.

New Mexico is Air Force friendly and we only ask for the chance to continue proving this fact. Please reconsider all the facts before making your final decision.

Sincerely,

Brenda S. Reader

BRENDA S. READER

MSgt USAF, Retired