



Alto, New Mexico
3 June 2005

The BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

06102005

Honorable Commissioners,

I am writing to express my concern with the Department of Defense's recommendation to close Cannon AFB, Clovis, New Mexico. While I believe there will be a significant detrimental economic impact on the local community I am not an expert in that area and will leave comment on that subject to those more knowledgeable than I. However, as a retired pilot, having served in operational positions in the United States Air Force for more than 30 years, I believe I am qualified to comment on the deleterious effect this recommendation will have on the operational training capabilities of the Air Force.

During my Air Force career I served at several operational bases, both in the CONUS and overseas, and operated on occasion from every operational base in the CONUS. I was fortunate to have spent five years at Cannon, in operational supervisory positions from Squadron Operations Officer, to Squadron Commander, to Deputy Commander for Operations (equivalent to current Operations Group Commander). It is my studied opinion that there is not a single base in the CONUS that is superior to, or even equal with, Cannon, AFB from an operational training viewpoint. The operational advantages of Cannon are numerous, not limited to the following:

- No operating constraints imposed by, or in place to placate the local community. The base is free to operate 24 hours per day, seven days a week.
- No nearby controlled terminal airspace. The only controlled airfield in the area is Cannon itself. It is not necessary to coordinate local operations with, or accommodate, another airfield, military or civilian.
- Not near the airway structure. Cannon is located well clear of the FAA controlled airway structure which means aircraft departing and arriving are not constrained by over-flying aircraft.
- Ready access to the low altitude training route structure.
- Access to supersonic training airspace.

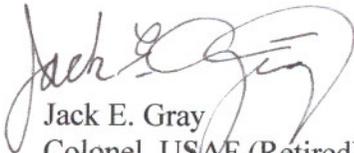
- Proximity to an excellent air-to-ground bombing range. Melrose range is located just west of the Cannon traffic pattern. This allows for extended range time and ease of safe return in the event of an aircraft or ordnance malfunction.
- Dual, non-parallel runways, reducing the potential operational impact of crosswinds.
- Pro-military community attitude that does not support frivolous and disruptive complaints concerning low flying aircraft.

While many CONUS bases have some of these operational advantages, I do not believe there is another base that can claim to have all of them. Simply stated, no other base is as well suited for operational flying training.

I do not live in the Clovis area and I have no business or financial interest in that area. My single interest is in the operational capabilities of my Air Force and in my opinion they will be poorly served if you recommend the closure of Cannon AFB.

If you desire clarification or further information please feel free to contact me at any time.

Very Respectfully,



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