



August 9, 2005

Mr. Anthony Principi, Chair
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

The names, Roy Walker, Max Meadors, Charles Fischer, and J. Harvey Wilson probably have no meaning to you. These men are all deceased now, but were once stalwart businessmen in the City of Clovis. They, as patriotic Americans, "founded" the military affairs committee in Clovis that is now labeled the Committee of Fifty. Their work, beginning over fifty years ago, helped sustain and grow Cannon Air Force Base. Not only did they commit their time, energy, and personal finances to the Air Force community, they provided the essential leadership to unite the larger civilian community with that of the military family.

Those traditions have been carried on by many, many citizens since their involvement and after their passing. Why is this relevant to the upcoming decisions of the BRAC? It is relevant because few military installations have the support and caring for the troops as does the City of Clovis with Cannon Air Force Base. Does this add military value? Unquestionably! Setting aside the statistics, economic considerations, and Department of Defense's judgments on what is "best" for the military, one must weigh the sociological aspects and interrelationships established among those who live and work, who rejoice and mourn, who brag and complain, and who value and devalue the quality of life of those serving in uniform in a community such as ours.

The BRAC hearing held in Clovis only demonstrated to the Commission the further necessity for maintaining (and expanding) Cannon AFB. Mistery Walker, Meadors, Fischer, and Wilson would not only have made the case compelling, but would have added an important historical perspective to the stance that has already been taken by local community leaders, elected officials, and other experts.

Mr. Principi, as you and others make your final decisions about Cannon AFB and forward those decisions to Congress and the President, be sure that you fully understand those implications for us in Clovis and for those who will carry on the military future. It is only right to overturn the DoD's recommendations in this instance.

Sincerely yours,



Jay Gurley, Director
Communications

August 6, 2005

**The Honorable James H. Bilbray
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA., 22202**

BRAC Commission

AUG 11 2005

Received

Dear Mr. Bilbray,

I am writing you concerning the closing of Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico.

I have listed the following facts about the criteria to close Cannon and the actual facts:

Cannon AFB Fact Sheet

The Defense Base Closure Realignment Act states that the Commission may make changes in any of the recommendations if it determines that the Secretary of Defense substantially deviated from the force structure plan and final criteria.

The DOD deviated substantially from the final BRAC criteria and Force Structure plan, and Cannon should be removed from the Closure List.

BRAC Criteria incorrectly evaluated: Military Value, Cost Savings, and Economic Impact. Further, Force Structure implications were not comprehensively considered.

BRAC CRITERIA

Military Value*:

Military Capability Index (MCI) calculations and subsequent analyses led to inaccurate conclusions attributable to flawed data and included areas such as, encroachment, proximity to airspace, proximity to low level routes, range complex, operational hours, buildable acres, auxiliary airfields, and the New Mexico Training Range Initiative (NMTRI). The Air Force concluded that Cannon AFB ranked as the 50th base in the

fighter mission category; an accurate scoring would rank Cannon AFB 2nd.

Cost Savings:

Cannon is among one of the lowest operating cost fighter bases in CONUS. DOD calculated cost savings as \$2.7 billion (NPV) over 20 years. Cost savings, in fact, are only about \$150 million (NPV).

Economic Impact:

DOD underestimated the economic impact of closing Cannon by reporting an incorrect, lower number of military personnel and civilians than are currently stationed at the base. The actual economic impact would devastate Clovis and surrounding communities for a lifetime. DOD reported 20 percent, while the actual adverse impact is greater than 30 percent.

FORCE STRUCTURE

Cannon is an irreplaceable asset and offers invaluable future flexibility and versatility. Future Force Structure must consider issues such as: Strategic Depth, Joint Training, Contingency Operations, Possible Future Missions, and Quality of Life/ Retention Issues. Cannon supports all of these areas.

I would hope with the above facts that you would vote to remove Cannon from the Closure List.

Sincerely,



**Chris Combs
1000 S. Abilene
Portales, New Mexico
(505) 356-4436**

BRAC Commission

AUG 11 2005

Received

August 6, 2005

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2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
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**Chris Combs
1000 S. Abilene
Portales, New Mexico
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August 6, 2005

BRAC Commission

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

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Sincerely,



**Chris Combs
1000 S. Abilene
Portales, New Mexico 88130**

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AUG 11 2005

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

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Sincerely,



**Chris Combs
1000 S. Abilene
Portales, New Mexico 88130**

BRAC Commission

August 6, 2005

AUG 11 2005

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

Dear Mr. Coyle,

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**Chris Combs
1000 S. Abilene
Portales, New Mexico
(505) 356-4436**

August 6, 2005

AUG 11 2005

**Brigadier General Sue E. Turner
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA., 22202**

Received

Dear General Turner,

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**Chris Combs
1000 S. Abilene
Portales, New Mexico 88130**

August 6, 2005

AUG 11 2005

Received

**Admiral Harold W. Gehman
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
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**Chris Combs
1000 S. Abilene
Portales, New Mexico
(505) 356-4436**

August 6, 2005

BRAC Commission

**The Honorable James V. Hansen
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA., 22202**

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**Chris Combs
1000 S. Abilene
Portales, New Mexico
(505) 356-4436**

August 6, 2005

BRAC Commission

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

AUG 11 2005

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1000 S. Abilene
Portales, New Mexico 88130**

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**The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
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**Larry O. Combs
PO Box 180
Portales, New Mexico
(505) 356-4436**

August 7, 2005

James D. Floyd
1701 Arbor Drive
Clovis, NM 88101-2305

505-762-5141
floydj@yucca.net

BRAC Commission

AUG 12 2005

Received

Honorable James V. Hansen
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir;

I am writing this letter in support of retaining Cannon Air Force Base.

Cannon still has the attributes that our military needs. Cannon can support more missions than most facilities, regardless of service. Cannon has the aircraft ramp space, two airstrips, and superior airspace. Soon, Cannon will have access to supersonic airspace. With a bombing range and an electronic warfare range within minutes for assigned aircraft, land and airspace that is not encroached upon, Cannon is irreplaceable. Another aspect that often limits a military facility, are limitations on noise and operational time windows. Cannon has no such limitations.

BRAC criteria should have demonstrated Cannon's value, and therefore have precluded it being placed on a closure list. Closure of facilities that are inefficient, encroached upon, have noise (operational) limitations, present major issues in the event of mishaps, and/or have issues with the local populace/governments should have been the focus. The fact that a desirable facility possesses an older fielded fleet is a circumstance that has been faced repeatedly in the past. If we had closed every facility that incurred an equipment/fleet conversion, we would have closed nearly every facility the military ever possessed. This is one of those situations. It appears that the Department of Defense (DoD) selected Cannon based on the equipment/fleet, rather than the facility value. We will continue to park fleets, but we must retain the prime facilities that our future fleets will require. Cannon is one of the future facilities.

The DoD prepared BRAC data presented to you and your fellow commissioners contain many inaccuracies. For example, the GAO reported that the DoD projected cost-savings were incorrect by as much as 47%. You have seen that data relative to Cannon are part of that incorrect data.

Many proposals have been floated as to what asset could be employed at Cannon. You have seen the resources available, and have also seen that they are not available elsewhere. Cannon is ready to meet the need.

The local community supports Cannon and has done so for many years. In addition to growing up as a military dependent, I spent more than 30 years in the military and can speak with experience that the local community is military-friendly.

The official BRAC Internet site presents success stories for post-BRAC facilities. Unfortunately, there are very few success stories. Naturally, the site doesn't not show the disasters left in post-BRAC's wake. Eastern New Mexico would be one of those disasters. The DoD's released data seriously underestimates the impact to this already economically disadvantaged state. The implications would be far-reaching. Comments stating that Cannon could be converted in a major business function are not based on logic, but rather on wishful thinking, or excuses. One need only to examine the history of the business arena of eastern New Mexico to understand that conversion is not an opportunity, but rather an economic liability in the making. Sugarcoating past actions further leads to a loss of credibility of not only our DoD, but also our entire government. To some, a half-truth is not an acceptable practice to communicate. Showing only the few success stories and ignoring the disasters left elsewhere is such a half-truth.

Clovis has experienced a BRAC before and also had a post-95 BRAC with the retirement of the EF-111A. The repercussions lasted through 2002. There is no way to minimize the impact that the closure of Cannon would have on the local community. It would destroy the economy in this area. One has only to look at Walker Air Force Base, which closed in 1967, and Roswell to verify that closure is not a temporary economic issue. Roswell still hasn't recovered to the point of before Walker's closure. Clovis has supported Cannon and the US Air Force for more than 50 years. The people of eastern New Mexico and west Texas continue to support Cannon and Cannon's military families.

We need your help in removing Cannon from the proposed closure list. Cannon Air Force Base is essential to ensuring the future capabilities of the US Air Force and our military. Thanks for your time and attention.

James D. Floyd

James D. Floyd
CMSgt, USAF, Retired

August 7, 2005

BRAC Commission

James D. Floyd
1701 Arbor Drive
Clovis, NM 88101-2305

AUG 12 2005

Received

505-762-5141
floydj@yucca.net

Honorable James H. Bilbray
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2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
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James D. Floyd

James D. Floyd
CMSgt, USAF, Retired

August 7, 2005

James D. Floyd
1701 Arbor Drive
Clovis, NM 88101-2305

505-762-5141
floydj@yucca.net

Brigadier General Sue E. Turner
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

BRAC Commission

AUG 12 2005

Received

Ma'am;

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James D. Floyd

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CMSgt, USAF, Retired

August 7, 2005

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1701 Arbor Drive
Clovis, NM 88101-2305

505-762-5141
floydj@yucca.net

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

BRAC Commission

AUG 12 2005

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James D. Floyd

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CMSgt, USAF, Retired

August 7, 2005

BRAC Commission

James D. Floyd
1701 Arbor Drive
Clovis, NM 88101-2305

AUG 12 2005

Received

505-762-5141
floydj@yucca.net

Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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James D. Floyd

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CMSgt, USAF, Retired

BRAC Commission

August 7, 2005

AUG 12 2005

James D. Floyd
1701 Arbor Drive
Clovis, NM 88101-2305

Received

505-762-5141
floydj@yucca.net

Honorable Anthony J. Principi
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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August 7, 2005

James D. Floyd
1701 Arbor Drive
Clovis, NM 88101-2305

BRAC Commission

AUG 12 2005

505-762-5141
floydj@yucca.net

Received

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

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CMSgt, USAF, Retired

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General Lloyd W. Newton
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BRAC Commission

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August 7, 2005

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1701 Arbor Drive
Clovis, NM 88101-2305

AUG 12 2005

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James D. Floyd

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CMSgt, USAF, Retired

2005 12 2005

Received

August 6, 2005

**The Honorable James H. Bilbray
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA., 22202**

Dear Mr. Bilbray,

I am writing you concerning the closing of Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico.

I have listed the following facts about the criteria to close Cannon and the actual facts:

Cannon AFB Fact Sheet

The Defense Base Closure Realignment Act states that the Commission may make changes in any of the recommendations if it determines that the Secretary of Defense substantially deviated from the force structure plan and final criteria.

The DOD deviated substantially from the final BRAC criteria and Force Structure plan, and Cannon should be removed from the Closure List.

BRAC Criteria incorrectly evaluated: Military Value, Cost Savings, and Economic Impact. Further, Force Structure implications were not comprehensively considered.

BRAC CRITERIA

Military Value*:

Military Capability Index (MCI) calculations and subsequent analyses led to inaccurate conclusions attributable to flawed data and included areas such as, encroachment, proximity to airspace, proximity to low level routes, range complex, operational hours, buildable acres, auxiliary airfields, and the New Mexico Training Range Initiative (NMTRI). The Air Force concluded that Cannon AFB ranked as the 50th base in the

fighter mission category; an accurate scoring would rank Cannon AFB 2nd.

Cost Savings:

Cannon is among one of the lowest operating cost fighter bases in CONUS. DOD calculated cost savings as \$2.7 billion (NPV) over 20 years. Cost savings, in fact, are only about \$150 million (NPV).

Economic Impact:

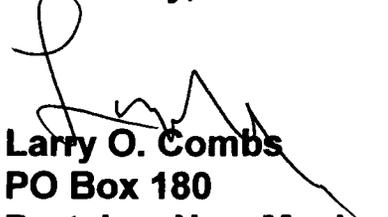
DOD underestimated the economic impact of closing Cannon by reporting an incorrect, lower number of military personnel and civilians than are currently stationed at the base. The actual economic impact would devastate Clovis and surrounding communities for a lifetime. DOD reported 20 percent, while the actual adverse impact is greater than 30 percent.

FORCE STRUCTURE

Cannon is an irreplaceable asset and offers invaluable future flexibility and versatility. Future Force Structure must consider issues such as: Strategic Depth, Joint Training, Contingency Operations, Possible Future Missions, and Quality of Life/ Retention Issues. Cannon supports all of these areas.

I would hope with the above facts that you would vote to remove Cannon from the Closure List.

Sincerely,


**Larry O. Combs
PO Box 180
Portales, New Mexico
(505) 356-4436**

August 6, 2005

**The Honorable Philip Coyle
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
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BRAC Commission

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BRAC Criteria incorrectly evaluated: Military Value, Cost Savings, and Economic Impact. Further, Force Structure implications were not comprehensively considered.

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Military Value*:

Military Capability Index (MCI) calculations and subsequent analyses led to inaccurate conclusions attributable to flawed data and included areas such as, encroachment, proximity to airspace, proximity to low level routes, range complex, operational hours, buildable acres, auxiliary airfields, and the New Mexico Training Range Initiative (NMTRI). The Air Force concluded that Cannon AFB ranked as the 50th base in the

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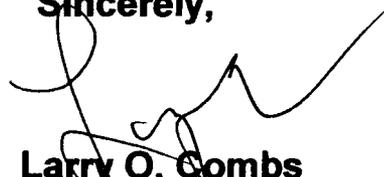
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Cannon is an irreplaceable asset and offers invaluable future flexibility and versatility. Future Force Structure must consider issues such as: Strategic Depth, Joint Training, Contingency Operations, Possible Future Missions, and Quality of Life/Retention Issues. Cannon supports all of these areas.

I would hope with the above facts that you would vote to remove Cannon from the Closure List.

Sincerely,



**Larry O. Combs
PO Box 180
Portales, New Mexico
(505) 356-4436**

August 6, 2005

BRAC Commission

**Admiral Harold W. Gehman
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA., 22202**

AUG 12 2005

Received

Dear Admiral Gehman,

I am writing you concerning the closing of Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico.

I have listed the following facts about the criteria to close Cannon and the actual facts:

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**Larry O. Combs
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August 6, 2005

**The Honorable James V. Hansen
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA., 22202**

BRAC Commission

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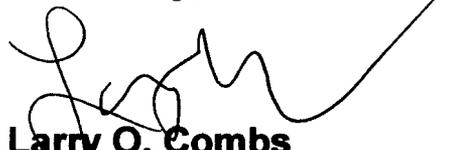
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August 6, 2005

BRAC Commission

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

AUG 12 2005

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Sincerely,



**Larry O. Combs
PO Box 180**

Portales, New Mexico 88130

August 6, 2005

BRAC Commission

**Brigadier General Sue E. Turner
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA., 22202**

AUG 12 2005

Received

Dear General Turner,

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**Larry O. Combs
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Portales, New Mexico 88130**

August 6, 2005

AUG 12 2005

Received

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

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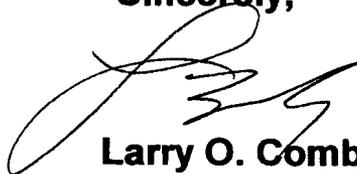
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