

DCN 3014

Patrick F. Flanigen  
412 Merrill Drive  
Clovis, NM 88101

## CC Distributors

RECEIVED  
5/23/05  
LTF

May 19, 2005

BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Va., 22202

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to request that you reconsider Cannon Air Force Base being on the Base Realignment and Closure list. There are many reasons to remove Cannon AFB from the list; below you will find some of the reasons:

1. I do not believe that Cannon fits your governing criteria for base closure.
  - o Training areas are abundant here:
    - This base has an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues. This provides for safer and more realistic training scenarios for pilots.
    - There is ample space to provide for live munitions builds, live loading, and pilot proficiency training. Most bases have to travel to Nellis AFB to have the capability to build, load and fly live weapons.
2. 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 is a very important point, as it allows the Air Force to better train for real-life situations.
3. The weather in Eastern New Mexico provides year round training ability.
4. The Melrose bombing range is seconds from the end of the runway at Cannon. This allows pilots to get airborne, and immediately begin training operations over the bombing range, rather than spending all of their fuel just to get to the range, having one pass over, and then returning to the base. This is more cost efficient than flying to Nellis or other training areas.
5. Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war-fighting, training, and readiness as was evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy. Cannon has hosted many joint airframe support operations. The Navy, Marines and other Air Force units have deployed here and used Melrose Range for realistic aircrew training operations. This provides for realistic training in joint forces operations. I believe this is the way are military operations are heading as we trim the forces to meet future requirement.
6. Cannon has ample space/ramp space to accommodate surge force requirements in training and emergency situations. While I was stationed here as a military member, Cannon has supported many different airframes. There have been as many as 2 C-5s on the ground at the same time, 3 C-17s, several KC-10's have deployed here and many other aircraft. This base is well suited for any airframe changes the Air Force requires.
7. The 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. If the plans don't include flying the new jets here, then the F-15's and newer block 50 F-16s that are replaced by them can be relocated to Cannon.

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Page 2

8. Cannon has won countless awards, both on ACC level, Air Force and NAF levels, and national and STAT levels.
9. 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.
10. Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, West Texas (including Amarillo and Lubbock) are home to a large military retiree population. These people rely on Cannon Air Force base for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close by to serve our retired military. I happen to be one of these retirees. I am employed as a contractor at Cannon AFB. If this base is closed, I will be forced to relocate to another area to support my family. The relocation costs would be high. I am not the only person that would be affected by this closure; many people would be subjected to the high cost of relocating. Clovis does not have the job market available to employ the number of people who would lose their source of income because of the base closing.

The city of Clovis has a strong (going on 50-year) relationship with the base. How many other communities have done what Clovis has?

1. 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 to protect that air space from encroachment and was an important issue for the Air Force.
2. The local community purchased the land north of Cannon Air Force Base and GAVE it back to the Air Force for additional housing, now known as Chavez Manor.
3. 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.
4. Leaders within our community spear-headed the effort to expand and convert the air space to supersonic capability through the New Mexico Training Range Initiative.

The Air Force has recently upgraded many of the facilities here at Cannon AFB. The base has a brand new Air Traffic Control Tower, Fire Department Facility, Security Forces Building, Munitions Storage Igloos, runway marking lights, runway repair...I could list many other facility upgrades that have taken place here in the last few years. It would be a shame to waste all of these new facilities.

With all of the reasons listed above, you should seriously reconsider the decision regarding keeping Cannon AFB off the B.R.A.C. list. I would greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,

*Patrick F. Flanigen*

Patrick F. Flanigen, MSgt (Ret), USAF  
Supply Manager for CC Distributors

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Patrick F. Flanigen  
412 Merrill Drive  
Clovis, NM 88101

## CC Distributors

06102005

RECEIVED

May 20, 2005

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2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Va., 22202

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06102005

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Dear Sir or Madam:

The City of Phoenix has grown up to the fences that surround Luke AFB. The City would like to have this property to expand their local housing and industrial infrastructure. Phoenix AZ could also absorb the loss of jobs that would occur more easily than Clovis NM could. So I ask you to consider Luke AFB as an option for closure.

Luke AFB has F-16 Fighter aircraft assigned to it and it is a training wing for pilots. These aircraft could be relocated to Cannon AFB, NM and their training mission could also transfer to Cannon. There is more training air space available at Cannon than there is in Phoenix. Also, Melrose range offers an excellent facility for aircrew munitions training. Melrose range is just minutes away from Cannon and all types of weapons drops are allowed (weather permitting). A Super sonic training initiative is in the process of being adopted for New Mexico. When this initiative is passed, Cannon will be able to offer super sonic aircrew training as well as desert terrain training.

Cannon has new, to fairly new, facilities ready to house more aircraft. It has a brand new air traffic control tower as well as two new munitions storage igloos. There have been many recent improvements and buildings erected in the last five years to support the growing mission at Cannon. Why waste these improvements? Use them for F-16 training or move F-15's, F-22's or other fighter squadrons to Cannon to use these facilities.

Thank You for the opportunity to address my concerns and to provide my input to this commission.

*Patrick F. Flanigen*

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