

06072005

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

June 6, 2005

Dear Commissioner Hansen:

I served in the United States Air Force for twenty years. I began as an Enlisted Intelligence Specialist then entered the Aviation Cadet program. I retired in 1972 as a Maintenance Officer and Senior Pilot flying F 100's with the rank of Major. This service includes two tours in Viet Nam.

During my twenty years of service, I found only two Air Force Bases in the World that readily welcomed members of the military and their spouses. This was Klamath Falls AFB, Oregon, (now closed) and Cannon AFB, Clovis, NM. My family and I chose to stay in Portales, NM because of the way we were accepted as members of the community in both Portales and Clovis. This experience was so much different from our treatment at Wurtsmith AFB, Oscoda, Michigan, Oxnard AFB, California and Luke AFB, Phoenix, Arizona. The local people at these Air Force bases did not want us there and were more than willing to say so.

Cannon has the unique ability to expand both South and West if needed to support an expanded mission. This base has a number of bombing ranges in the near vicinity that are capable and can support low level supersonic attacks from multiple directions. This makes Cannon one of the best fighter/bomber training bases in the world.

The low population density off each of the four runways provides a greater margin of safety for the Aircrews and local civilians during takeoffs and landings. Thus, carrying practice or live ordinance does not create the hazard as it does in heavily populated areas.

I feel that to close Cannon AFB would be a major mistake based on the number of available flying days and realistic training capability. The community support for the base and the military personnel stationed here is unequalled anywhere in the world today.

Sincerely;



George A. Speck
Major, USAF (Retired)
608 E. 17th Lane
Portales, NM 88130-9203

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REC'D

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

June 6, 2005

Dear General Newton:

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

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

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The Honorable Philip Coyle
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
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Major, USAF (Retired)
608 E. 17th Lane
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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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Dear Commissioner Principi:

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The Honorable James H. Bilbray
BRAC Commission
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