

May 20, 2005

Susan Glenn
610 Wylie Cox Circle
Portales, NM 88130

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

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi:

The BRAC /Commission's decision to close Cannon Air Force Base has me very concerned. I implore you to reconsider the unique attributes that Cannon offers our national defense. These include an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues, a bombing range the Air Force now owns that is only seconds away, and the airspace to fly at supersonic speeds.

I do not believe that Cannon fits the criteria provided for base closure. Once the New Mexico Training Range Initiative is in place pilots will be able to fly at supersonic speeds during training. Cannon also has the space and facilities to accommodate joint warfare training and readiness and ample space/ramp space to accommodate surge force requirements in training and emergency situations.

Curry County has purchased air easements around Cannon in conjunction with the State of New Mexico, purchased land north of the base for housing, purchased land west of Cannon for instrument lighting on the alternate runway and has given it all to the Air Force for Cannon.

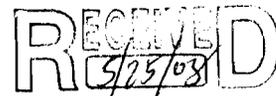
According to the Department of Defense, Clovis would be the hardest-hit community on the BRAC closure list as far as the percentage of projected job losses from the local economy. As much as 26% of employment in Curry County alone is traced to Cannon with a loss of \$173 million in gross-receipts taxes annually which does not include Portales where 250 airmen and their families make their home. It has been estimated that the closing of Cannon will cost this area the loss of more jobs, percentage-wise that any other area in the county having a severe ripple effect on the economy of the entire state. Clovis/Portales are small communities and Cannon Air Force Base is so much a part of our lives. I was even born there in the early 60's.

I implore you to please reconsider all the facts before making your final decision. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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

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Portales, NM 88130

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

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