

Charles B. Cree, IV  
Rebecca J. Rice Cree

1411 N. Ave. O  
Portales, NM 88130

May 20, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Principi:

We are very concerned about the BRAC Commission's decision to close Cannon Air Force Base.

It seems evident that the Commission did not have all the facts about Cannon when the decision was made. We believe Cannon does not fit the criteria provided for base closure. Some unique attributes Cannon offers include:

- Ample space and facilities are readily available to accommodate surge force requirements in training and emergency situations, as well as joint warfare training and readiness;
- Air easements around Cannon to protect the air space from encroachment. These easements were purchased by Curry County with the help of the state of New Mexico and given to the Air Force.
- The local community has worked to expand and convert the air space to supersonic capability through the New Mexico Training Range Initiative, which is expected to be implemented soon.
- The local community also purchased land north of Cannon for base housing and land west of Cannon for the installation of instrument lighting on the alternate runway at the base. All of this land was given to the Air Force.

Closing Cannon will have an extremely negative impact, in several ways, on Clovis and Portales, as well as much of West Texas:

- An estimated 4780 jobs (approximately 20% of the Clovis/Portales Microplex work force), directly and indirectly generated by the base, will disappear. This job loss percentage is expected to be higher than any other affected area in the country.
- The ripple effect of these lost jobs will directly affect public education in the area, including public and private schools in both Clovis and Portales, Clovis Community College, and Eastern New Mexico University.
- The area, including Amarillo and Lubbock, TX, has a large military retiree population that depends on Cannon for health care, grocery shopping, and more. There is no other military installation nearby to serve this population.

Please reconsider all of the facts before you make your final decision.

Respectfully yours,

*Charles & Rebecca Cree*

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5/25/05

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

Dear Mr. Hansen:

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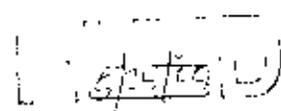
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General Lloyd W. Newton  
BRAC Commission  
2521 S. Clark St.  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear General Newton:

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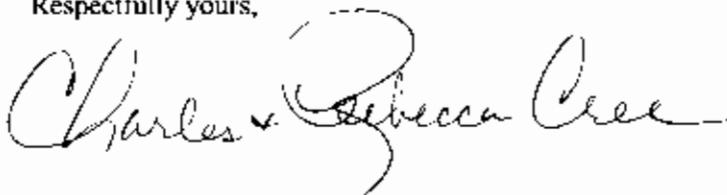
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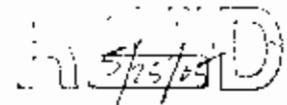
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General James T Hill  
BRAC Commission  
2521 S. Clark St.  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

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

Dear Brigadier General Turner:

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Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

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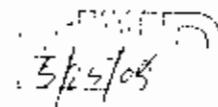
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