DCN: 4515

SUBJECT:

INFORM THE
2005 BRAC COMMISSIONERS
TO NOT EVEN THINK
OF CLOSING SUCH A
VITAL BASE FOR OUR
SECURITY, ~~A~~CANNON A.F.B.
NEW MEXICO IS.

RECEIVED
05272005

Cannon A.F.B. is now, and has been the ideal training base for our pilots and foreign pilots flying supersonic aircraft. I was stationed here in 1964 to 1965. I was in the weapons field. Before I write more I must say English was not the subject I liked, but I'll continue.

I loaded F-100 A/C (the load sled) took a long runway to take-off. Cannon has excellent runways. We flew the tow target banners, Thousand foot of cable or more hooked up to a jet aircraft. This was dragged down the runway as the aircraft

became airborne so did the tow target. Painted tips of 20 mm shells different colors, pilots fired at the target banner, & the hits were counted on return. Banner & cable were released in the open & retrieved. Different color tips for each aircraft.

Melrose firing and bombing range is a hop, step and a jump away for the supersonic jets.

In "64" my part and other weapons troops loaded bombs, rockets, and 20 mm cannons. We allowed the pilots the weapons & loads they needed free

to going to Vietnam during the era "64" - "73". I was very proud to know I was a part of all I am trying to tell you about.

I have talked to so many different pilots I have seen over the years here at Cannon. They can not say enough good things about Cannon.

I see the modernization, the advanced technology now, compared to "64".

How could any one in their right mind want to shut down a base with an outstanding record as Cannon A.F.B

One way of putting it, would say it would be a disaster to shut this

base.

This is security for me, for you, our children, and soon grandchildren aren't long to follow.

I just never thought I would hear of such talk. This sounds like desperation my friend. Don't go along with such foolish ideas, think of the consequences to remove a vital strategic base, that has proudly turned out qualified pilots.

Yes, trained by the best there are, and thats the folks at Cannon A.F.B.

These trained pilots return to the country they came from, and are followed by more troopers

These are friends we need

to help protect us, as well as we protecting them.

The ones we must keep our guard up against know good and well Cannon A.F.B. keeps them in check.

Another thing, the towns-people are so wonderful and kind to the servicemen. The churches, the mayor, the city govt.

Would I lie, I have been here 22 yrs. now. I go to the hospital, get my medicine as thousands of others do. My wife who I was blessed with when I married her in "64" in Clovis, N.M. Home of Cannon A.F.B. She fought cancer the last 15 yrs & last now passed away.

Oh, but how wonderful

and so bird figure has been over all that time. Thank God for those people.

The foreign pilots and enlisted men from those different countries are so happy, they have the P.X., the movies, bowling, fast foods, picnic grounds, modern gym, golf, swimming pools, libraries, commisary etc. affordable housing. The stores + restaurants are so nice and enjoyable.

Our song starts God bless America, well that is what I'm saying, and praying, God help protect America by not even having a passing thought of closing Cannon A.F.B. NEW MEXICO

YOURS TRULY
SGT. GERALD H. SPAHR
RETIRED U.S.A.F (20 YRS.)

P.S. KOREA
VIETNAM
VET (I KNOW WHAT I AM SAYING)