

DCN: 4431

Archdiocese of Santa Fe
THE CATHOLIC CENTER
4000 SAINT JOSEPH'S PLACE, N.W.
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87120-1709

AREA CODE 505 831-8100

May 24, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Principi,

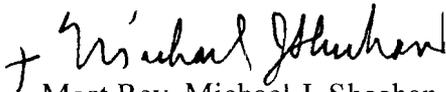
Please let me introduce myself to you. I am the Archbishop of Santa Fe and the town of Clovis, New Mexico has two good sized Catholic parishes which are under my responsibility. Both parishes have fine priests who serve the people.

We are all very alarmed about the proposed closure of Cannon Air Force Base. I write to express my concern in the hopes that there can be reconsideration of Cannon Air Force Base so that it might be allowed to continue to operate. The closure of the Base would have a drastic effect upon the City of Clovis and, of course, the two Catholic communities of which I speak.

I know that your committee is concerned about the economic impact on communities. I understand that Clovis would be the hardest hit of any community facing losses under BRAC. In fact, the impact would involve a 20.5% loss of employment which is a larger hit than any other place.

The unfettered air space, the lack of encroachment issues and super sonic capabilities pointed out by Senator Domenici, make Cannon a perfect place for continued training for the future with a multitude of aircraft, not just the F-16. Please urge your fellow Commissioners to reconsider and let Cannon live! May God bless you and your colleagues.

Sincerely yours in the Risen Lord,



Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan
Archbishop of Santa Fe

RECEIVED

05312005

cc:

Senator Pete Domenici, United States Senate, Washington
Rev. Carlos Chavez, Pastor, Sacred Heart, Clovis
Rev. Sotero Sena, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Clovis