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May 20, 2005

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

Dear Brigadier General Turner:

I am writing to respectfully request reconsideration of base closure for Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico, for the following reasons:

Cannon does not fit the criteria provided for base closure.

The base has an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues. This provides for safer and more realistic training scenarios for pilots.

Once the New Mexico Training Range Initiative is implemented, we will be able to offer pilots the ability to fly supersonic during training missions. This is a very important point, as it allows the Air Force to better train for real-life situations. The weather in Eastern New Mexico provides year round training ability.

The Melrose bombing range is seconds from the end of the runway at Cannon. This allows pilots to get airborne, and immediately begin training operations over the bombing range, rather than spending all of their fuel just to get to the range, having one pass over, then returning to the base.

Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war-fighting, training, and readiness as evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy. Further, Cannon has ample space/ramp space to accommodate surge force requirements in training and emergency situations. The availability of air space and ideal flying weather makes Cannon the perfect candidate to support future training missions for the F-22, Joint Strike Fighter, and other military aircraft.

Cannon has won countless awards, both on ACC level, Air Force and NAF levels, and national and STAT levels. The relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and the surrounding towns; Clovis, Portales, West Texas, and others, is unlike any other installation in the country. A large military retiree population in the area relies on this base to serve their needs for healthcare, grocery shopping and more. There is not another installation close by to serve our retired military.

Respectfully,


Albuquerque, NM