

Dear Brac Commission,

24 May 05

Please reconsider and keep Cannon AFB in New Mexico open. Use it for another modern aircraft weapons systems - the planes may be obsolete but the need for unencroached Airspace and real estate in the day and age for training will be LOST if allowed to close. We should not be closed just because the aircraft are old - think globally and use the base assets for another mission.

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Thank you for the job you've undertaken,

sincerely, a retired  
USAF Medic

enclosed are newspaper clippings with facts and reasons to consider - some are irreplaceable in modern society - the USA is growing - real estate is not cheap and an airbase with community support is a luxury!

LOCATION, LOCATION

LOCATION!

We are out in the plains - flat! no mountains or crevasses to crash into! COLA is lower than average - we are not near a resort, tall buildings, big businesses or complainers of noise that make costly lawsuits for the DoD.

The Department of Defense proposal to close Cannon hit eastern New Mexico harder than any other community in the nation; it's estimated Cannon is directly responsible for 20 to 26 percent of the area's jobs.

Cannon supporters expressed disbelief, frustration and anger following Friday's announcement, claiming the Pentagon's analysis failed to take into account the lack of encroachment on the base or that planes from Cannon can fly 320 days a year because of clear weather.

They also said the Air Force failed to trumpet a proposed supersonic airspace expansion that could be approved later this year.

"That's why it's so important to get a good analysis of (Cannon's) military value. ... This extra access to supersonic training is a large part of that," said Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., expressing confidence Cannon can be removed from the closure list. "There are a lot of good arguments we can make."

Previous BRAC commissions have accepted 85 percent of bases the Pentagon recommended for closure.

Randy Harris, a member of a volunteer Cannon support group called the Committee of Fifty, said he still believes the base meets criteria for survival outlined last year by DoD.

While the Pentagon has claimed "military value" would determine which military installations are shuttered, Harris is among local leaders wondering if other issues were explored behind the scenes.



CNA staff photo: Eric Kluth

Cannon Air Force Base is home to more than 4,000 active-duty members and civilians, including 270 officers and 3,201 enlisted airmen, according to base officials.

*New buildings, runway, tower, Fire dept III*