

Jason Gonzales
3924 Springwood Drive
Clovis, NM 88101

May 26, 2005

BRAC commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Va., 22202

Dear Sir or Madam:

My name is Jason Gonzales and I live in Clovis, NM. I would respectfully like to ask you to reconsider the Department of Defense recommendation for closing Cannon AFB. I believe the Pentagon did not consider all of the information related to Cannon in making their recommendation to the BRAC commission to close the base. One of the criteria for evaluating military installations is military value. I believe the following items prove that Cannon has a high degree of military value:

- No encroachment issues. In the early 90's, the Clovis – Portales community and the State of New Mexico purchased the air easements around Cannon to protect the base from encroachment issues and we gave those easements to the Air Force.
 - In addition, Cannon is located 7 miles west of Clovis, NM which eliminates urban encroachment of Cannon.
 - In fact, in a statement by Nelson Gibbs, Assistant Secretary for installations, Environment and Logistics USAF, given to a congressional sub-committee on readiness on March 13, 2003, he stated: "...residential development forced Nellis AFB to cease using the southern departure for live ordnance missions."
 - This round of BRAC recommends is actually sending some of our planes to Nellis AFB, a base that by the Air Force's own admittance is experiencing encroachment issues that are negatively impacting force readiness.
 - In addition, I have actually seen protesters outside the fence of Luke AFB in Phoenix, AZ protesting the presence of the Air Force in Phoenix and how it is a danger and a nuisance to the citizens of Phoenix. I would argue that the community of Clovis and Portales would welcome the personnel from Luke AFB with open arms and invite them to our base. If the DOD feels it is important to the nations defense to consolidate bases, why not move Luke AFB to Cannon?
- Melrose Bombing Range is located just 15 miles west of Cannon and is just minutes from wheels up to dropping ordinance on the range. I would argue that this is truly a unique asset to the Air Force. I would also question whether the Air Force considered the wasted fuel that is spent on flying to a range from another base only to drop a single bomb and return to base to refuel. At Cannon, our pilots can maximize their over target time and the number of bombing runs before having to return to base for more fuel.
- Local community leaders lead the effort for the New Mexico Training Range Initiative which will provide the Department of Defense the capability to fly at supersonic speeds for training missions in combination with the Melrose bombing range.
 - On April 5th, 2005, General John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff was questioned during a Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on the use of the NMTRI supersonic airspace in combination with Melrose bombing range (15 miles from Cannon). **General Jumper** stated in direct relation to the NMTRI, Cannon, and Melrose Bombing range:
 - **General Jumper** : "...the great leverage that we have over other air forces of the world is our ability to go out and do this live training..."
 - This statement alone is indicative of the military value of Cannon and our future war fighting missions.
- Within the last few years Cannon has undergone extensive upgrades to make this facility a state of the art Air Force base and in my opinion prepare the base for expansion not closure. Some of the upgrades that I am aware of are:

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- New Security Forces Operation Facility
- New Flight Simulator Building
- New Control Tower
- New Fire Crash and Rescue Building
- New approach lighting for 2 runways
- Runway extensions and upgrades
- New Air Ground Equipment Facility is currently under construction
- New Logistics Building

Instead of closing the base, Cannon is uniquely suited to expand and the community of Clovis would welcome with open arms **more flights, more planes, more missions, more personnel, and even additional branches of the military** Based on the items I have discussed above, I feel that Cannon AFB is a true asset to the defense of our Nation and several key assets of Cannon were **ignored** or overlooked by the Pentagon in placing Cannon on the BRAC closure list.

Sincerely,



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Jason Gonzales
Concerned US Citizen

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