

May 23, 2005

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

Dear Sir or Madame,

As a resident of Clovis, NM and a retired E-7 from the USAF, I do not understand your reasoning for placing Cannon AFB on the BRAC list. Reviewing your criteria for bases placed on the list, Cannon AFB does not meet any of you requirements.

Station at Cannon AFB for 7 year prior to my retirement, I know the important of this base and the surrounding air space. Cannon has supported numerous peace and wartime mission demonstrating the effectiveness of the base and the tremendous support the surrounding community.

Cannon Air Force Base should not be on the list for the following reasons:

- 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 was evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy.
- 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
- 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.
- Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, West Texas (including Amarillo and Lubbock) are home to a large military retiree population. These people rely on Cannon Air Force base for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close by to serve our retired military.

Please review your criteria for base closures and you will agree with Cannon and the community that Cannon AFB is an asset to the American People. THANKS!



Floyd Bynum III, MSGT (Ret), USAF
Clovis Resident