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 May 23, 2005

Chairman Anthony Principi
BRAC Commission

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT LEADER RULING ON BASE CLOSURES

Financial savings are not a factor these days in view of 9/11 and present enemies who want to kill Americans. It appears future wars are inevitable. In my opinion, PEACE WITH MILITARY STRENGTH needs continued improvement to protect Americans. We must maintain our present number one superiority world respect. Communism, Fascism, Moslem, Islamic threats to kill must be defended and stopped. These are not the days to close Cannon AFB or any other like qualified base. Cannon, Luke, Holloman and Nellis Air Force Bases are prime supersonic fighter aircraft training bases having the needed surrounding air space, bombing ranges and other valuable facility assets that are needed to provide the defense of this country.

The above are major factors to be considered rather than seeking cost savings for domestic needs for Americans. What good would domestic provisions provide should we reduce and weaken our PEACE WITH MILITARY STRENGTH of today and be overtaken by some ungodly nation? Furthermore, we know that whatever cost savings can be accomplished by consolidating base installations our congress will not use these savings to reduce our national debt. Instead, they will create unnecessary waste spending for their constituents in their effort to be re-elected into office. This is another reason to retain these defense bases so that jobs can be provided for the American people throughout the United States. At the same time, we are strengthened by a much better defense position. This is a much better way to spend the taxes of the American people. We cherish our freedom. Our Liberty is a great asset. Our founding fathers and many wonderful American military families paid with their lives to give us 225 plus years of liberty and freedom. Let us not develop into a state of apathy and throw away this American lifestyle that our great God has given to us.

Our DOD Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld initiated the recommended closures as the way to go. Although I am very proud of his present and past accomplishments including the support he has provided our great President George Bush. This is not the time to reduce our military strength. Too many countries are envious of America's success wanting to kill Americans and bring us down from our # 1 world superiority. Our superiority has always been one of compassion giving away much of our wealth and power to help weaken nations and their people. But, unfortunately, there are some nations who exercise dominance by using brutal force striving to be # 1. The BRAC committee, the Congress and the president must carefully look at all of the present and future possibilities (positive and negative) which may finally provide disapproval of their own recommendation.

In closing, my prayer is that with the help of God, our Creator, using many of our great leaders of this great country that we may reach the right decision that will benefit all Americans.

Freedom does not come cheaply. It costs in many ways and comes only with great sacrifice. May God continue to bless America for another 200 more years.

For your information, I was inducted 2-21-42 and discharged as a WWII Air Force Warrant Officer on 3-31-46. I was one of 150 military personnel who opened Cannon AFB in October 1942 located in Clovis NM. In addition, I retired with 24 years of Federal Civil Service at Cannon and George AF Base. Cannon is a great training Base and the Clovis citizens always supported and provided wonderful relations with all of our military personnel.

LEN SANTI

cc:

- (1) President of the United States**
- (2) DOD**
- (3) BRAC Members**
- (4) NM Congressmen**
- (5) Governor of New Mexico**
- (6) Clovis News Journal**
- (7) Albuquerque News Journal**

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