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Dear BRAC Commission Members:

I respectfully address you as an honorably discharged USAF retiree, forever a member of "Team Cannon", and the 27th FW. I served with the 523rd FS, 524th FS, 430th ECS and 429th ECS. I lived and served within the most highly deployed, unit in the USAF in the early 90's, out of Cannon AFB and the 27th FW. I elected to serve here, I elected to retire here. My wife and I elected to make our home here because the community is conducive to a great family life, easy access to the USAF, Commissary, BX privilege, and Pharmacy facilities.

Cannon Air Force Base should be removed from the list for the following reasons:

- Cannon should not qualify within any criteria for base closure.
- This community wants a USAF presence.
- Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, West Texas (including Amarillo and Lubbock) are home to a large military retiree population. We rely on Cannon Air Force base for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close by to serve our retired military with your inherent promise of support for honorable retirees. Closing breaks your promise. Honorable men live by their word.
- The base has an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues. This provides for safe, unencumbered, more realistic Combat training scenarios for our aircrews.
- Once the New Mexico Training Range Initiative is implemented, Cannon AFB will be able to offer pilots the ability to fly supersonic training missions. This is a very important point, as it allows the Air Force to better train for real-world survivability situations. "Train as We Fight".
- The weather in Eastern New Mexico provides almost year round training ability. Sortie generation in my seven plus years on Cannon's ramp was only lost on seven snow days. May I add in a National Emergency, the ramp, runway would have been cleared and sorties flown to "Hack any Real World Mission".
- The Melrose bombing range is immediately available after take-off from Cannon's runway. 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, and then returning to the base. This facility is used by other bases and should be increased and exploited to its full potential.
- Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate an expansion and become home to a Composite Wing like Mtn Home AFB, Idaho.
- 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 AFB also projects superior and capable Airpower in any future "Homeland Security 9-11/National Emergency" scenario, decisive and affirmative "Air Cover" over the PANTEX Nuclear Weapons facility 100 NM NE near Amarillo, Texas. No other AFB can ensure "Homeland Security" of this facility within 15 minutes of a National Command and Control order to protect except Cannon AFB.

Please visit, come with open eyes and a holistic value of "Common Sense". You will discover, growth, common interest, a community with open arms that will envelope your military members with love and deep respect.

Respectfully yours

Steven R. Hyre, USAF Retired

