

May 27, 2005

The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner,
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Skinner:

I urge you to overturn the Department of Defense's BRAC recommendation to close Cannon Air Force Base. A few of the key reasons Cannon Air Force Base should not be on the BRAC closure list include:

- Cannon does not fit the criteria provided for base closure.
- Cannon has an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues.
- Once the New Mexico Training Range Initiative is implemented, Cannon will be able to offer pilots the ability to train at supersonic air speeds. This allows the Air Force to better train for real-life situations.
- The weather in Eastern New Mexico provides year round training opportunities.
- 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.

In addition, the surrounding communities have demonstrated a strong commitment to Cannon Air Force Base in many ways, including:

- The local community purchased the land north of Cannon Air Force Base and gave it to the Air Force for additional housing.
- Within the last few years, our community purchased land west of Cannon and donated it to the Air Force for the installation of instrument lighting on the alternate runway at the base.
- Leaders within our community spear-headed the effort to expand and convert the airspace to supersonic capability through the New Mexico Training Range Initiative.

In summary, Cannon Air Force Base and the surrounding communities have developed a mutually beneficial relationship over the last 50 years. The continued operation of Cannon Air Force Base is important for this region and the defense of this Nation. Respectfully, I urge you to vote to remove Cannon Air Force Base from the BRAC closure list.

Sincerely,



David J. Robinson
913 Rosewood
Clovis, New Mexico 88101

RECEIVED
06022005