

May 23, 2005

BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico should not be on your list to close. Clovis and Portales have always had an excellent relationship with Cannon Air Force Base. We welcome the base, the young families and young trainees here.

There have been numerous times Curry County and the local community has purchased land needed by CAFB and given it to the Air Force. We support the base morally, financially, spiritually and above all, consistently.

We don't want to lose a large population in East New Mexico and West Texas of retired military. These people provide a much needed input to our communities. They are dependent on Cannon Air Force Base to provide their healthcare, grocery shopping and all other services.

The Melrose Bombing Range is seconds from Cannon. This saves fuel for bombing practice. Also, we have space and facilities to accommodate joint war-fighting, training and readiness. Cannon offers ample space/ramp space to facilitate surge force requirements. New Mexico has excellent weather to support training missions. We are in the planning stages of the New Mexico Training Range Initiative to offer pilots the ability to fly supersonic.

There is no other installation in the country with a relationship like Cannon Air Force Base and our surrounding towns.

Sincerely,



Dennis Smith  
Clovis, New Mexico

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5/25/05