

5-20-05

H. Charles Reader
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Clovis, NM 88101

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi,

I am Very concern about the BRAC Commission's decision to close Cannon Air Force Base.

I do not believe the Commission is fully aware of the unique attributes that cannon offers to our national defense. These include an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues, a bombing range that is only seconds away, the airspace to fly supersonic speeds, and ideal year-round flying weather, among many others.

In addition to the military value to the nation, Cannon has been supported over the last 50 years by the local communities like no other in the country. The local community purchased the land north of Cannon and gave it back to the Air Force for additional housing.

The local community purchased land west of Cannon and gave it back to the Air Force for the installation of instrument lighting on the alternate runway at the base.

The entire area, including Amarillo and Lubbock, is home to a large military retiree population. These retirees rely on Cannon for healthcare, grocery shopping and more. There is not another installation close by to serve retired military.

Please reconsider all the facts before making your final decision.

Respectfully Yours,

H. Charles Reader

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