

May 23, 2005

05312005

General James T. Hill
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

General Hill:

I respectfully request that you reconsider closing Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico. I have read the criteria for base closure, and Cannon does not appear to meet that criteria. It seems to me that Cannon fits the criteria for an effective military warfare and training readiness base, not one which should be closed.

Cannon AFB enjoys sunshine the majority of the year, which is ideal for flying missions year round. There is an abundance of air space without encroachment, and the Melrose bombing range is nearby allowing for immediate training operations and fuel savings. From what I understand, Cannon will soon be allowed to fly supersonic during training missions. Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war fighting, training and readiness, and also ample space/ramp space to accommodate surge force requirements in training and emergency situations.

I am a retired Chief Master Sergeant (E-9) who spent 30 years in the US Air Force. My family and I spent most of that 30 year period at Cannon Air Force Base, and it was a very good experience most of the time. The relationship between the community and Cannon Air Force Base is a unique one. We have been stationed at other cities that did not want an Air Force Base near them, and the relationship between the base and community was strained at best. This community was always supportive of us as military personnel and dependants, and we decided to retire here. One of the main reasons we and many other retirees decided to retire here was because of the military healthcare facility, and the privilege of using the commissary and BX. Many retirees for hundreds of miles depend on this base and its services. If Cannon closes, it will cause many retirees in this area undue hardship since many live on fixed incomes.

I realize you have a huge task ahead of you, but please reconsider the closure of Cannon Air Force Base. Cannon has many unique attributes to offer our national defense, and is needed in this community. I believe it would be to our country's benefit to keep Cannon AFB open.

Respectfully Yours,



David A. Loadwick
2017 E. 21st Street
Clovis, NM 88101
djloadwick@plateautel.net

May 23, 2005

James V. Hansen
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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The Honorable James V. Hansen:

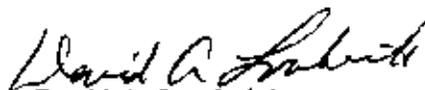
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Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr.
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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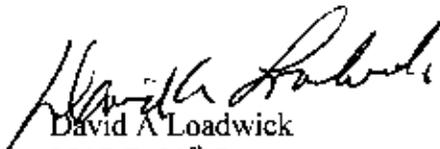
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Anthony J. Principi
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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