



June 14, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

I am writing on behalf of the Curry County Democratic Party regarding the closure of Cannon AFB. The Curry County Democratic Party feels strongly that the BRAC Commission should reconsider and take Cannon AFB off the closure list.

Cannon AFB has an abundance of airspace with no encroachments, which allows for safer and more realistic training scenarios for various aircraft and missions. The NM Training Range Initiative, once implemented, will allow for supersonic flying. Clovis enjoys great year-round weather which makes for excellent flying conditions. The Melrose Bombing Range is only seconds away from Cannon AFB. Cannon AFB also has new runways and ample space for surge force requirements.

Clovis and the surrounding communities include a large retiree population and our hospital, Plains Regional Medical Center, has recently expanded to include a Cancer Center, Heart Rehab, a new Emergency Room and Urgent Care Center and new medical staff. Clovis Community College has expanded along with Eastern New Mexico University, both offering classes at Cannon AFB. A new VA Clinic opened this year and new industry is offering more job opportunities for spouses and children.

Clovis and the surrounding communities have always supported Cannon AFB by offering military discounts to military patrons. Clovis offers the best schools and teaching staff in New Mexico. Our community is Christian-based and family-oriented.

The Curry County Democratic Party supports Cannon AFB and would like the BRAC Commission to reconsider its decision to close.

Sincerely,

Jan Elliott
Chairperson
Curry County Democratic Party