

June 15, 2005

To the BRAC Commission:

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These words express very well the general opinions of citizens in the surrounding area of Cannon Air Force Base.

- **Cannon does not fit the criteria provided for base closure.**
- **The base has an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues. This provides for safer and more realistic training scenarios for pilots.**
- **Once the New Mexico Training Range Initiative is implemented, we will be able to offer pilots the ability to fly supersonic during training missions. This is a very important point, as it allows the Air Force to better train for real-life situations.**
- **The weather in Eastern New Mexico provides year round training ability.**
- **The Melrose bombing range is seconds from the end of the runway at Cannon. This allows pilots to get airborne, and immediately begin training operations over the bombing range, rather than spending all of their fuel just to get to the range, having one pass over, then returning to the base.**
- **Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war-fighting, training, and readiness as was evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy.**
- **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.**
- **Cannon has won countless awards, both on ACC level, Air Force and NAF levels, and national and STAT levels.**
- **The relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and the surrounding towns; Clovis, Portales, West Texas, and others, is unlike any other installation in the country.**
- **Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, West Texas (including Amarillo and Lubbock) are home to a large military retiree population. These people rely on Cannon Air Force base for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close by to serve our retired military.**
- **In the early 90s, Curry County, in conjunction with the state of New Mexico, purchased air easements around Cannon Air Force base and GAVE them to the Air Force. This one done to protect that air space from encroachment and was an important issue for the Air Force.**

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- The local community purchased the land north of Cannon Air Force Base and GAVE it back to the Air Force for additional housing, now Chavez Manor.
 - Within the last few years, our 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.
 - Leaders within our community spear-headed the effort to expand and convert the air space to supersonic capability through the New Mexico Training Range Initiative.

In summary, the community has reached out and supported the base like no other community over the last 50 years. We've done so financially, morally, spiritually and above all, consistently.

Sincerely,



**Jo Burns, Admissions Specialist
Clovis Community College**