


**THE PORTALES NATIONAL BANK**

"ROCK SOLID AND HOME OWNED SINCE 1906" May 18, 2005

BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Va., 22202

**RECEIVED**  
5.23.05  
JK

Re: Cannon Air Force Base closure (reconsider)

Honorable Commissioners,

CAFB is a valuable asset to the government, as Rep. Heather Wilson stated;

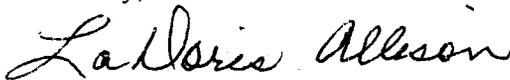
*"Once you shut a base, you can never get it back".*

CAFB meets & exceeds the criteria required by the Pentagon officials who developed the base closure list.

1. Expanded Air Space.
2. Expanded bombing range (Melrose Bombing Range).
3. Recently approved Supersonic Corridor (effective 10/1/05).
4. CAFB has been protected from any encroachments of the facility.
5. CAFB has the ability to expand the base in any direction.
6. CAFB is a modern 'state of the art' military facility with infinite capacity & diversification.
7. 27<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing is known at the Pentagon as the 'Go To' mobile group in response to the new extremist (terrorist) driven 'War Theater'.
8. Cost of land and services is lower in the rural Southwest.
9. 320 days (annual average) of good flying weather.
10. Cost of flying operations is lower due to close proximity to Melrose Bombing Range, expanded Air Space and the new Supersonic Corridor.
11. Virtually no private or commercial air traffic for the military to contend with.
12. Military personnel have lower cost of living and good climate (morale).

The communities that have supported Cannon Air Force Base used due diligence in protecting CAFB from encroachments, worked hard to obtain expanded air space and the new Supersonic Corridor. The military will not find a harder working group (communities of Eastern New Mexico) that have and will continue to assist CAFB officials with any requests or projects. *Cannon Air Force Base has been the mobile fighting unit the Pentagon desires, the 27<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing have been all over the world with just a moments notice.*

Sincerely,



La Doris Allison & Hadley Spears  
Portales National Bank  
ENMU Branch