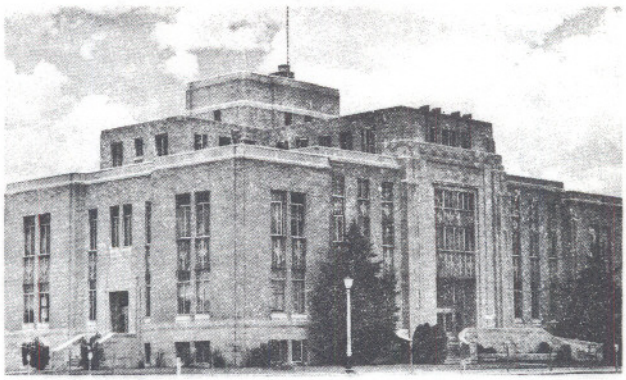
DCN 1219

ORIGINAL

E. JANET COLLINS
County Clerk

LINDA CONNELLY
Chief Deputy Clerk



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May 23, 2005

ROOSEVELT COUNTY CLERK

The Honorable James H. Bilbray
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir,

In regard to the closing of Cannon Air Force Base I am neither for nor against the closing but there are some points in which I believe the BRAC Commission is lacking in knowledge. One is that the base is of no value to the military there for expendable this is not true for many reasons. The base is located in an area that is rarely shut down because of weather, has unlimited growth possibilities, and has a variety of terrain in the area that has been used for many war like simulations and joint ventures with other branches of the military. It also has the ability to move large amounts of supplies, people and equipment from its position in the United States. There is the railroad near by, trucking is an industry in the area and the flight to any major city is only a short distance from the base. Cannon has been instrumental in most of our continued war efforts and still is in that regards. They continually ship troops out and bring them back along with sending others to different bases in the United State and outside of the United States. They have worked extensively with other branches of the military to hone their skills and have earned many rewards that have brought great pride to the base and the surrounding community.

The economic impact of shutting down the base alone is enough to make it an unwise choice on the list. We have many retired military in the area who rely on this base for its support as they go into their golden years, along with many businesses who have grown because of the base and otherwise would not exists or even be in the area if it wasn't for the base and the revenue. Shutting the base would essentially kill off most of the business in the area Wal-Mart is rumored that if Cannon does close then they will close one of their stores in the area causing a major loss of wages for the area along with the civilians that will lose their job when the base closes. Unemployment in New Mexico had just started declining this will cause another major blow for the area for they will not only be losing the base but also have a huge flow of unemployed people in the area. Cannon has also just finished making additions to the base such as the new flight tower and many other repairs that the base was beginning to need. Closing the base will waste these new structures and the money it took to build them.

Environmentally speaking shutting the base and trying to move an oil refinery in here would be a huge mistake we are already in a water battle because of drought conditions and couldn't sustain a refinery, a cheese factory has just been manufactured in the area, and the dairies in the area are already a major drain on our water table. The blow would be too much for the area ranchers and farmers there are already many farms and ranches up for sale because their wells have gone dry.

Hopefully this letter and the many others you'll receive will help get Cannon of the list but if not I'm sure that you weighed all of the factors and found that closing the base was in the best interest for the whole of the United States and although it might hurt the area the area would recover in time.

Respectfully,
Beth A. Burns
Roosevelt County Clerk Deputy

RECEIVED 5/26/05

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