

DCN 3020

## BRAC COMMISSIONERS

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2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Va., 22202  
Phone #: (888)473-6120

May 21, 2005

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Dear Friends,

My name is Buddy Little. I am currently living in Clovis, New Mexico. I truly enjoy being employed by Texico Municipal Schools as the High School Principal. The Texico school district has been ranked in the top of the state in every area of academics. Texico is located just 8 miles west of Clovis on the Texas/New Mexico border. We as a district love Cannon Air Force Base. Cannon and its personnel have, for years helped our community in so many ways. As a district we have asked to use their drug sniffing dogs, we have had Cannon personnel speak to and encourage our students. Besides, many of our best students are children of the great men and women of Cannon Air Force Base.

I truly believe that Cannon does not fit the criteria provided for base closure. Cannon has an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues. This air space provides for safer and more realistic training scenarios. 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.

I believe that our weather may have also been overlooked. The weather in Eastern New Mexico provides for year round training. I'm almost certain that Cannon allows for more training days than any other base in the United States.

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 also has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war-fighting, training, and readiness as was evident 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. This available 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 Cannon shares between the surrounding towns; Clovis, Portales, Texico, Melrose, Friona, TX, Muleshoe, TX, Hereford, TX, Amarillo, TX, and many other is unlike any other installation in the United States.

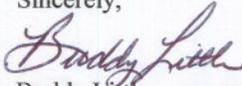
Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, West Texas (including Amarillo and Lubbock) are home to a large military retiree population. These people rely on Cannon Air Force base for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close by to serve our retired military.

There is a strong historical relationship between Cannon Air Force base and the above mentioned communities. In the early 90's, 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 was done to protect the

air space from encroachment and was an important issue for the Air Force. The local community purchased the land north of Cannon Air Force base and **GAVE** it back to the Air Force for additional housing, now know as 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.

We, in our community, stand ready to assist Cannon in anyway possible for years to come. We, as a community, support our military as well as any other community in the world. **Please** consider taking Cannon Air Force Base off of the list of military installations submitted for closure. I believe closing Cannon would be a one of the largest mistakes ever made by the military.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Buddy Little".

Buddy Little  
Principal, Texico High School  
Voting Citizen