

# ESPAÑOLA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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June 20, 2005

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The Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Removing Cannon AFB from BRAC list

Dear Commissioners,

As a Chamber of Commerce, we are very concerned about the Department of Defense's recommendation that Cannon Air Force Base should be closed.

We want to help make the Commission fully aware of the unique attributes that Cannon offers to our national defense. These include year-round flying conditions, unencroached airspace that will soon be available for training at supersonic speeds, many new and existing facilities suitable for joint training exercises, and a low-cost environment that promotes cost-efficient training. Cannon is a real asset to the country's armed forces.

Whether or not Cannon's military value has been recognized yet in Washington, the citizens of Clovis, New Mexico really appreciate the base. The regional community has been uniquely supportive, making important concessions to the Air Force's needs. Specifically, New Mexico is in the process of enacting the Strategic Training Range Initiative, which will provide more supersonic training space and allow it at lower altitudes at Cannon. The City of Clovis welcomed the Air Force personnel. The many veterans in the area make it clear that they feel at home here. Clovis considers Cannon and its retiree a part of its family.

The closure of Cannon will also have a devastating impact by the City of Clovis economy. It has been estimated that the Clovis area will lose at least 20 percent of its workforce. Moreover, an economic impact like that will hurt the entire region, well beyond the immediate Cannon area. Cannon Air Force Base is critical for all of us.

We ask that you please reconsider Cannon's importance to the nation and to the Clovis community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Tarazon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maria Tarazon,  
Secretary of the Española Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors  
PO Box 190  
Española, NM 87532

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE  
"KEEP CANNON" INITIATIVE**

**WHEREAS**, the Clovis Army Air Base was activated during World War II and closed at the end of the war; and,

**WHEREAS**, the base was reactivated during the Korean conflict and has been continuously serving the national defense since that time; and,

**WHEREAS**, Cannon Air Force Base has a long history of both combat and peace time service to the safety and security of the country; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Clovis/Curry County Chamber of Commerce and the Clovis community have strongly supported Cannon Air Force Base, its mission and the United States Air Force personnel and their families; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Defense, on May 13, 2005 announced its recommendation to close Cannon Air Force Base as a part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program; and,

**WHEREAS**, Cannon Air Force Base meets all announced criteria governing the base closure evaluations; and

**WHEREAS**, Cannon Air Force Base has favorable flying conditions, is in close proximity to the Melrose Bomb Range, has recently refurbished both runways and other infrastructure, and has infrastructure capable of accommodating an expanded mission; and,

**WHEREAS**, through foresight and planning by local and state officials, air right easements have been previously acquired to eliminate encroachment issues that have impacted other Air Force Bases; and,

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Training Range Initiative should be finalized before the end of 2005, allowing supersonic training at Melrose Bomb Range and associated military airspace; and,

**WHEREAS**, from the inception of the air expeditionary force (AEF) concept, Cannon Air Force Base has served as a lead wing; and,

**WHEREAS**, Cannon personnel and their families have contributed greatly to the local community, and the local community has provided a supportive home to those military families; and,

**WHEREAS**, the closure of Cannon Air Force Base would have a significant adverse impact on the community, both financially and culturally; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Clovis / Curry County Chamber of Commerce believes that the closure recommendation fails to follow the announced criteria; and,

**WHEREAS**, Governor Richardson has vowed to lead and support efforts to overcome the recommendation of the Defense Department; and,

**WHEREAS**, Congressional leaders have also pledged to lead efforts to overcome the recommendation; and,

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Clovis, Portales, Curry County, Roosevelt County, eastern New Mexico and west Texas support Cannon Air Force Base and the efforts to resist closure; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Española Valley Chamber of Commerce seeks the involvement, support and assistance of all citizens to successfully persuade the BRAC Commission to remove Cannon Air Force Base for the closure list.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Española Valley Chamber of Commerce, to exert whatever means and energy is necessary to obtain the removal of Cannon Air Force Base from BRAC closure list.

**DONE** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 2005 at the Española Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting.

By: 

Maria Tarazon, Secretary of the  
Española Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors