

DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION
2521 CLARK STREET, SUITE 600
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202
(703) 699-2950

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

DATE: 15 July 2005

TIME: 0900 Hours

MEETING WITH: Representatives of the Clovis, New Mexico Community

SUBJECT: DOD Recommendation to Close Cannon Air Force Base

PARTICIPANTS:

Guests:

Name	Title	Organization	Telephone Number	Email Address
Randy Harris	Chair, Clovis Committee of Fifty	President, Bank of Clovis	505-769-9000	jharris@bankofclovis.com
Hanson Scott	Director	New Mexico, Office for Military Base Planning & Support	505-827-0226	Hanson.scott@edd.state.nm.us
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Karl Gingrich	Senior COBRA Analyst	BRAC	(703) 699-2928	karl.gingrich@wso.whs.mil

MEETING SUMMARY: Members of the BRAC Commission staff met with representatives of Clovis New Mexico community to discuss their concerns regarding the recommended closure of Cannon Air Force Base. The Clovis NM community representatives, headed by Randy Harris, presented the following. Mr. Harris led the briefing and called on other Clovis representatives to provide additional input. They recommend that Cannon AFB be removed from the closure list and that Cannon retain its current F-16 mission. Mr. Harris stated that Cannon was incorrectly scored with regard to multiple military value criteria and the removal of Cannon from the recommended closure list would allow the Air Force and DOD to correct a significant error produced by a flawed military value assessment process. Mr. Harris further stated that the closure of Cannon would present an unprecedented and unacceptable economic impact for the communities surrounding Cannon Air Force Base. He added that Cannon has the lower cost per flying hour than any other Air Combat Command air base and is comparable to or lower than Luke, Hill, and Shaw Air Force bases for issues such as basic allowance for housing, civilian locality pay, federal per diem rates, and base operating support. Mr. Harris further added that Cannon has no encroachment issues and its air space and range complexes are controlled by Cannon and are unrestricted for military use. He further stated that Cannon has the infrastructure to support the return of F-16 from overseas bases and/or realignment from other CONUS bases.

The Clovis Community also presented various alternative scenarios to include; close or realign NAS Oceana missions to Seymour Johnson AFB or Moody AFB and realign the Seymour Johnson AFB or Moody AFB missions to Cannon. A third alternative presented was to close Shaw AFB and move its missions to Cannon. We explained that after the July 19th adds hearing no additional alternatives for closure and/or realignment could be considered.

Karl Gingrich, R&A/Cobra Analyst, told the Clovis group that the commission accepts COBRA runs developed by the local communities for review and analysis. The Clovis group was directed to submit .cbr files (COBRA data files) through the lead analyst for Cannon AFB.

I explained that I have met with the Air Force BRAC staff and the Air Space and Range Division personnel to discuss each military value category for each of the issues raised by the Clovis Community. For example, the Clovis Community raised concerns that Cannon AFB was not given full credit for the number of hours daily the range was available. They believed that 12 hours was reported due to self imposed limits and that anything less than 12 hours is due to local authorities making decisions related to manpower and community convenience. However, Cannon was given credit for 12 hours daily air space/range availability. This was because 12 hours is the number of published hours coordinated between the Air Force and the FAA. Air Force officials stated that Cannon could request to the FAA controlling facility for increased air space/range time but this could be denied due to domestic air traffic constraints.

The Cannon Community also questioned the score that Cannon AFB received for proximity to airspace supporting missions. I explained that the answer was more complex than just Cannon's proximity to airspace supporting missions. Questions dealing with this issue addressed: special use airspace, Air Traffic Controlled Assigned Air Space (ATCAAs), and distances to air refueling routes up to 800 miles.

In closing we reiterated that all the data the Air Force used in making its BRAC decisions is now available on the Defense Link web site and we suggested that they may want to further discuss open issues with the Air Force BRAC group and with the Air Force Range and Air Space Division. We agreed to meet with the Clovis Group if they have new data they want us to consider.

* Denotes individual responsible for completing the memorandum