

June 7, 2005

**BRAC Commission  
Received**  
6/23/2005

Dear Honorable James H. Bilbray:

I am writing in response to the current BRAC recommendation to close Cannon Air Force Base (CAFB) currently located in Clovis, New Mexico. As a life-long resident of a nearby community (Texico, New Mexico) I am truly concerned about the impacts the closure of Cannon would have on our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to bring some items to your attention. First and foremost Cannon does not fit the criteria for base closure. CAFB has an abundance of air space and we do have the encroachment issues of many other bases. In addition, once the New Mexico Training Range Initiative is implemented, we will be able to offer pilots the ability to fly supersonic during training missions. The weather in Eastern New Mexico is also ideal to provide year-round training ability and CAFB has space and facilities to accommodate changes in force requirements in the future. Finally, the Melrose Bombing Range is literally seconds from the runway at Cannon, giving pilots the convenience and cost savings of becoming airborne and immediately beginning training, rather than spending precious time and fuel flying to the range and then returning to refuel.

Our local community almost identifies itself with Cannon Air Force Base. Over the last 50 years our surrounding communities have supported CAFB like no other community in our country. Our community has even purchased air easements and land around CAFB and given them to Cannon at no cost! Our community has reached out and supported CAFB financially, morally, spiritually, and above all, consistently.

The closure of Cannon Air Force Base would have an absolutely devastating impact on our community. We have heard estimates that the area would lose as much as 20% of our workforce. This is much larger than estimated in the original recommendations and is completely out of line with the effect of base closings in other communities. Our community is also home to a very large military retiree population who depend on CAFB for healthcare, grocery shopping, and other services.

Cannon Air Force Base is critical for us to survive and prosper as the community we've become. I implore you to please reconsider the original recommendations and consider Cannon's importance to our nation and to my community. Please, let us KEEP CANNON!!

Sincerely,

  
Monica J. Sanchez

June 7, 2005

Dear Honorable Samuel K. Skinner:

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Received**

6/23/2005

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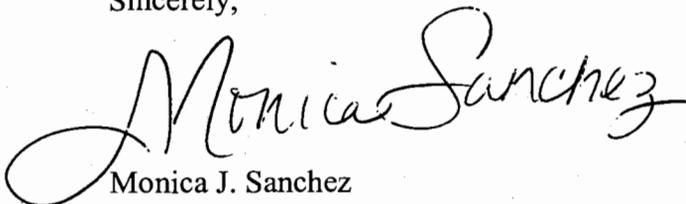
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