



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT
400 ARMY NAVY DRIVE, SUITE 200
ARLINGTON, VA 22202-4704



AUG 22 2005

BRAC Commission

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Received

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, Defense Base Closure
and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Commission on August 11, 2005. Enclosed is my response to the question for the record that was directed to the Office of Economic Adjustment.

I invite you to contact me at 703-604-6020 if the Commission requires further explanation or information from this office.

Sincerely,

Handwritten initials, possibly "PJO", in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Patrick J. O'Brien in black ink.

Patrick J. O'Brien
Director
Office of Economic Adjustment

Enclosure
As stated

Enclosure

**Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Question for the Record
August 11, 2005**

Q: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask all three of you to address for the record the question that the chairman raised about the cost of environmental clean-up at Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico being zero. I'd like all three of you to say if you think it's going to be zero, why you think it's going to be zero, and if you think it's going to be some other number, what you think a more likely number would be.

And in your case, Mr. O'Brien, what role the community, the governor, the state of New Mexico would play in determining what those environmental costs might be?

The Office of Economic Adjustment is unable to provide an opinion on any current projected cost for clean-up at Cannon Air Force Base (AFB). As a DoD field activity whose mission it is to assist communities in response to the closure action itself, we have not been involved with the formulation of the Secretary's recommendations nor the costs underpinning them.

In the event Cannon AFB is ultimately approved for closure and property is made available for civilian use, OEA will work directly with the community, Governor, and the State of New Mexico (hereinafter referred to as the "Cannon community") as they undertake a planning effort to evaluate the property and improvements at Cannon AFB for potential civilian uses within the context of local and regional market-specific variables. This local planning effort will seek opportunities for reuse that are economically and environmentally sustainable and responsive to the impacts of the action approved. Until this effort gets underway and some site-specific data is provided within a local redevelopment context, we would caution against any predicted impacts on the cost estimates for clean-up activity at Cannon Air Force Base.