

DCN: 1432

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May 31, 2005

RECEIVED  
06022005

General Lloyd W. Newton  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear General Newton:

I strongly urge you to reconsider the Department of Defense's recommendation that Cannon Air Force Base should be closed. Cannon Air Force Base should be removed from the BRAC closure list for many reasons. I have listed some of these reasons below:

- Cannon does not fit the criteria provided for base closure.
- The weather in Eastern New Mexico provides year round training opportunities.
- Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war-fighting, training, and readiness as was evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy
- Cannon Air Force Base brings people of all cultures into our community. Because of this our community is more diversified, and we are able to share in the knowledge of people from all over the United States.
- Closing Cannon will have a devastating impact on our economy. It has been estimated that our area will lose at least 20% of its workforce, a percentage out of line with the effect of base closings in other communities. Cannon is critical to our community.
- Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, and West Texas (including Amarillo and Lubbock) are home to a large military retiree population. These retirees rely on Cannon Air Force Base for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close by to serve our retired military.

The Clovis, Portales and surrounding communities have reached out and supported Cannon Air Force Base like no other community over the last 50 years. The following are some examples of how the community has shown its support of Cannon Air Force Base:

- 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.

In summary, Cannon Air Force Base is very important to our community! I ask you to please come to the Cannon hearing in Clovis, and reconsider Cannon's importance to my community and to the nation as a whole. Please, let us KEEP CANNON!

Sincerely,

*Sheila Mehl*

Sheila Mehl  
113 Lockwood Dr.  
Clovis, NM 88101

May 31, 2005

OCN: ~~7442~~  
1432



The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Skinner:

I strongly urge you to reconsider the Department of Defense's recommendation that Cannon Air Force Base should be closed. Cannon Air Force Base should be removed from the BRAC closure list for many reasons. I have listed some of these reasons below:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila Mehl".

Sheila Mehl  
113 Lockwood Dr.  
Clovis, NM 88101

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Brigadier General Sue E. Turner  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Brigadier General Turner:

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Sheila Mehl  
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