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Executive Correspondence

BRAC Commission

AUG 15 2005

Received

State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

August 12, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street – Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202-3920

Dear Chairman Principi:

As you prepare for final deliberations on the BRAC process, we want to apprise you of a new agreement that we hope will influence your decisions about the future of Cannon Air Force Base.

We and several land-owners surrounding Cannon Air Force Base have agreed on a plan to nearly double the size of the base through the public purchase of land adjacent to the base. The proposed land acquisition – roughly 3,000 acres – would allow the United States Air Force to expand Cannon Air Force Base at no cost to the Air Force or the Department of Defense.

After discussions with city officials and landowners, as Governor, I pledge to commit $5 Million in state funding that would be used to help the City of Clovis purchase the land from private land-owners who are willing to sell the properties for the purpose of supporting the men and women of the Air Force and allowing for the expansion of Cannon Air Force Base. The land-owners have pledged to work closely with the City of Clovis to expedite any deal that would benefit the base.

This effort by the State of New Mexico and the City of Clovis follow the commitment we made during the BRAC hearing in Clovis, where we stated Cannon is not being threatened by encroachment. In fact, Cannon is perfectly positioned for expansion – at no cost to the military. We are taking this bold action today to ensure that Cannon can be expanded. No other state has stepped forward with this kind of offer that benefits the military mission of the Air Force.

This potential land acquisition will allow for expansion of Cannon's facilities and both runways on the base. This major opportunity will pave the way for future growth of Cannon to accommodate the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter training mission, un-manned missions, airborne laser missions, continuing F-16 missions and A-10 missions.

The entire New Mexico congressional delegation is in full support of this agreement between the Governor and the City of Clovis, which represents a proactive stand to continue the 50-year commitment to enhancing the capabilities and the mission, as well as future missions, of Cannon Air Force Base. This expansion will also enhance Cannon's ability to accommodate joint missions with the Air Force and the Army.

As Governor of New Mexico and Mayor of Clovis, we encourage you to seriously consider this new agreement as you decide the fate Cannon Air Force Base and its future role as part of the military mission of the United States.

Sincerely,

Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico

David M. Landsford
Mayor of Clovis

BR/DL/bg

cc:

Honorable James H. Bilbray
Honorable Philip Coyle
Admiral Harold W. "Hal" Gehman, Jr. (USN, Retired)
Honorable James V. Hansen
General James T. Hill (USA, Retired)
General Lloyd W. Newton "Fig Newton" (USAF, Retired)
Honorable Samuel K. Skinner
Brigadier General Sue E. Turner (USAF, Retired)