

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

Terry Blaschke  
2221 Fairway Terrace  
Clovis, NM 88101

June 14, 2005

BRAC Commission  
2521 S. Clark St.  
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico

Honorable Commissioner Philip Coyle:

Thank you in advance for taking a few minutes to read this letter. I realize during the BRAC process you will be hard pressed with your time so I will attempt to keep it short. My understanding is that the key element in the determination of keeping, closing or realigning a base is "military value". I also realize that "military value" must include future considerations, some of which cannot be disclosed to the public. In reviewing the criteria by which each base is reviewed, it appears that Cannon meets all criteria, therefore, rather than rehash the criteria I present the following for your consideration.

My son is a senior at Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee where he is a Political Communications Major. Being home for summer break when the BRAC report came out in mid-May and prior to any review of the recommendations in the report, I asked him hypothetically of course, if he was Secretary of Defense, what his primary concerns for America would be. He said "the borders". I asked further, what concerns he had about American borders and his reply centered around terrorism. So I asked for further explanation as to what he would do to protect the borders. To which he replied that his idea would be to build up the military presence near those areas that may be terrorist targets in an attempt to deter terrorism (due to the show of strength) and response time. Assuming some of those ideas may have been a part of discussions concerning the BRAC recommendations I then asked him to consider the build up of the American military presence in Hawaii during World War II and what happened as a result. Is it possible that the closing of Cannon and bases in South Dakota and Alaska along with the buildup of bases in more densely populated areas may actually play into the hands of Americas enemies? In event of attack, would it not be militarily advantageous to have response teams in place away from intended points of attack where the attackers cannot create substantial civilian and military casualties at the same time? Does history repeat itself? What can we do to learn from it and make choices to avoid the same mistakes?

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Secondarily, we are all familiar with remote controlled airplanes. How often do people with remote controlled aircraft go to densely populated areas that are full of buildings and other obstacles (encroachments) in order to practice flying the planes? Don't we typically see these people take the planes to parks or recreation areas that have plenty of wide open space with few obstacles where they can practice maneuvers unhindered? If the military is going to more "pilot less" aircraft, what better environment to fly in than the wide open spaces afforded Cannon Air Force Base?

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So many more thoughts and questions, but I promised to keep it brief. Thank you again for your valuable time.

Sincerely,

  
Terry Blaschke

cc:

Commission Chairman Anthony Principi  
Commissioner James Bilbrary  
Commissioner Adm. Harold W. Gehman, Jr.  
Commissioner Rep. James V. Hansen  
Commissioner Gen. James Hill  
Commissioner Gen. Lloyd "Fig" Newton  
Commissioner Samuel K. Skinner  
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