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To: BRAC commission  
2521 South CLark STreet, Suite 600  
Arlington, Va., 22202

Date: June 11, 2005

Subject: Reconsider and take Cannon AFB off the closure list

In my opinion, there are many reasons that Cannon AFB should be taken off the closure list. First, there are military facts such as:

Abundance in airspace with no encroachments  
Safer, more realistic training scenarios for various aircraft and missions  
Once implemented, the NM Training Range Initiative allows supersonic flying  
Great year-round weather for flying conditions  
Melrose Bombing Range is seconds away  
New runways on the base  
Ample space and ramp space for surge force requirements  
Support of training missions for F-22, Joint Strike Fighter, etc.  
Award-winning base on ACC, Air Force, and NAF levels  
A relationship like none other with the communities of Clovis, Portales, and the surrounding areas.

In addition to the above military facts, there are many community considerations that are important, such as:

A large military retiree population withing a 150 mile radius  
\$60 million expansion to Plains Regional Medical Center with new Heart and Cancer wings, 10,000 sq. ft. REhab Center as well as the addition of 60+ new medical staff  
Expansion to Clovis Community College amd Eastern NM University - ckasses iffereed ib base  
New VA Clinic opened this year  
Expansion and new industry is providing job opportunities for spouses and children  
Many new housing developments are providing housing needs.  
New restaurants, building suppliers, hotels, and retail businesses adding to the established base  
New Civic Center under construction for increased communityevents

I live in Melrose, north and east of the bombing range. Ours is a small town, with several churches and a wonderful school. Several of the military families live in Melrose because they enjoy the atmosphere of a small town, and want their children to attend a school where they can get individual attention. Yes, our town will suffer if the base is closed, but more importantly, the military families will suffer, also. We also have several civilians working on base.

Please reconsider your plans to close Cannon. Consider all the pros and cons, and I believe you will want to rethink your position.

Thank you for your attention.

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