

May 19, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi,

I am writing this letter to communicate my concerns about the possible closing of Cannon Air Force Base. Please understand that Cannon, Portales, and Clovis are one community. To dismantle the community would be devastating to the entire eastern side of New Mexico.

My husband and I moved to this area 4 years ago because of our relationship to the University and the relationship to the air base. The quality of life is enhanced on this side of the state because of the diversity of the personnel at the base. Quality of life cannot be replaced by any government economic disaster program.

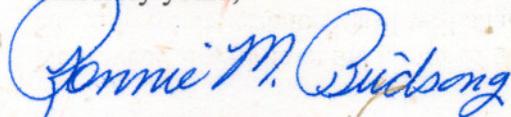
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I know other communities have reasons to keep their installation, but I believe if you study the facts, you will readily see why it is imperative Cannon remains open.

Military value should encompass more than the BRAC group considered. It should include opportunity for future expansion. Luke cannot provide the opportunity for expansion. Our weather is great, our air space is available, our citizens want the base and our future deserves it.

I appreciate your listening to our plea. We look forward to seeing you when you come to our area.

Sincerely yours,



Ronnie M. Birdsong

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The Honorable James H. Bilbray
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2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
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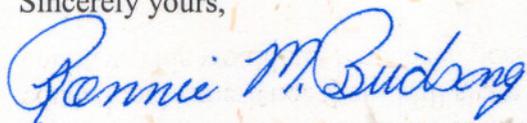
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Brigadier General Sue E. Turner
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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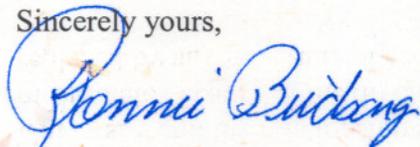
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2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
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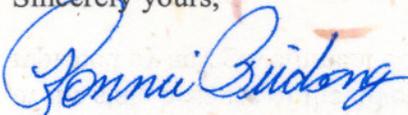
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General Lloyd W. Newton
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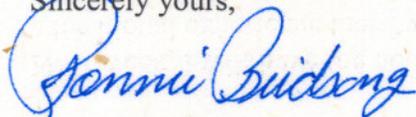
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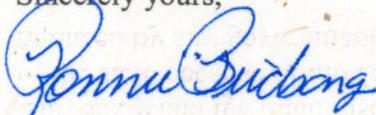
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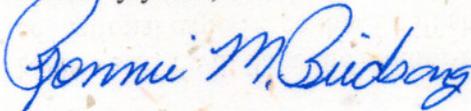
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Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr.
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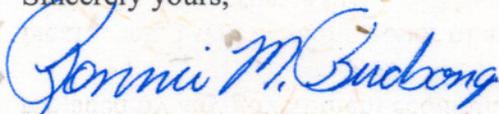
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