CARLSBAD
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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The Base Realignment and Closure Committee
Department of Defense
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

June 16, 2005

Re: Removing Cannon AFB from the BRAC list

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce to express our concern about the Department of Defense's recommendation that Cannon Air Force Base should be closed.

Cannon Air Force Base offers unique attributes to our national defense program. These include year-round flying conditions, unencroached airspace that will soon be available for training at supersonic speeds, many new and existing facilities suitable for joint training exercises, and a low cost environment that promotes cost-efficient training.

The regional community has been uniquely supportive, making important concessions to the Air Force's needs. Specifically, New Mexico is in the process of enacting the Strategic Training Range Initiative which will provide more supersonic training space and allow it at lower altitudes at Cannon.

The closure of Cannon will also have a devastating economic impact. It has been estimated that the Clovis area will lose at least 20 percent of its workforce, a percentage out of line with the effect of base closings in other communities. Moreover, an economic impact like that will hurt the entire region, well beyond the immediate Cannon area. Cannon Air Force Base is critical for all of us.

I invite each of you to come personally to the Cannon hearing in Clovis. I ask you please to reconsider Cannon's importance to the nation, state and region. Please, let us KEEP CANNON!

Sincerely

Betty Egbom, President
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce

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