

05312005

May 27, 2005

Stephen G. Hearn
1283 Colonial Parkway
Clovis, New Mexico 88101-3009

05312005

James V. Hansen
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Mr. Hansen,

Cannon Air Force Base is an essential link in our national security and has been since 1942. We were in another war then and found ourselves trying to make up for lost time training and equipping our armed forces. As a high school teacher and retired Air Force Officer, looking back at our military history, I have found that we tend to reduce and consolidate our forces after times of initial conflict. We are at war with an enemy that has no national borders or government and is intent on destroying our influence on the world. We only have to look back during the last century to see what will happen if we reduce our infrastructure in a time of our greatest need. We end up in a much larger conflict.

Remembering that the military is an extension of diplomacy and the final level of resolving a conflict we should not reduce bases or capability. President Reagan won the Cold War by building the military up to meet and beat the conflict of that time. We won by being the very best military in the world. Now, we are at the lowest point in personnel strength and equipment since the end of the Second World War. We need to keep those installations and highly trained personnel if we are to win this conflict. Freedom is not free; saving dollars now may cost us in lives and freedom in the future.

If we put all of our eggs in a few consolidated baskets, we only give our enemy the ability to inflict greater destruction if he does strike again. Remember Pearl Harbor! Cannon is the only fighter base for several hundred miles along our southern border. We need to keep this link in the fence for our national defense. We have had several incidents of private aircraft entering restricted airspace in the last couple of weeks and have found that time to target is a critical component of being successful at preventing another September 11th. We are closer than Kirtland to the border and cover most of southern New Mexico with flights. So, far we have been lucky and the pilots have been friendly, but only a few days ago a private plane made an emergency landing at Cannon, AFB with foreign nationals on board thank God they were also friendly and were turned over to the Border Patrol. Our homeland security is a key issue in keeping Cannon. Additionally, we have critical national assets within a couple of hundred miles of Cannon in Amarillo which need our protection from people who would like to see our capability to defend ourselves degraded. This is just another reason to keep Cannon open.

Yours truly,


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1283 Colonial Parkway
Clovis, New Mexico 88101-3009

Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

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Dear Admiral Gehman,

Cannon Air Force Base is an essential link in our national security and has been since 1942. We were in another war then and found ourselves trying to make up for lost time training and equipping our armed forces. As a high school teacher and retired Air Force Officer, looking back at our military history, I have found that we tend to reduce and consolidate our forces after times of initial conflict. We are at war with an enemy that has no national borders or government and is intent on destroying our influence on the world. We only have to look back during the last century to see what will happen if we reduce our infrastructure in a time of our greatest need. We end up in a much larger conflict.

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Stephen G. Hearn
Major, USAF (Retired)

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1283 Colonial Parkway
Clovis, New Mexico 88101-3009

Sue Ellen Turner
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

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Dear General Turner,

Cannon Air Force Base is an essential link in our national security and has been since 1942. We were in another war then and found ourselves trying to make up for lost time training and equipping our armed forces. As a high school teacher and retired Air Force Officer, looking back at our military history, I have found that we tend to reduce and consolidate our forces after times of initial conflict. We are at war with an enemy that has no national borders or government and is intent on destroying our influence on the world. We only have to look back during the last century to see what will happen if we reduce our infrastructure in a time of our greatest need. We end up in a much larger conflict.

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Stephen G. Hearn
Major, USAF (Retired)

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James T. Hill
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

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Dear General Hill,

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Stephen G. Hearn
Major, USAF (Retired)

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1283 Colonial Parkway
Clovis, New Mexico 88101-3009

RECEIVED

Philip Coyle
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

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Dear Mr. Coyle,

Cannon Air Force Base is an essential link in our national security and has been since 1942. We were in another war then and found ourselves trying to make up for lost time training and equipping our armed forces. As a high school teacher and retired Air Force Officer, looking back at our military history, I have found that we tend to reduce and consolidate our forces after times of initial conflict. We are at war with an enemy that has no national borders or government and is intent on destroying our influence on the world. We only have to look back during the last century to see what will happen if we reduce our infrastructure in a time of our greatest need. We end up in a much larger conflict.

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James H. Bilbray
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Mr. Bilbray,

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Lloyd Newton
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

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Dear General Newton,

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Stephen G. Hearn
Major, USAF (Retired)

May 27, 2005

Stephen G. Hearn
1283 Colonial Parkway
Clovis, New Mexico 88101-3009

Samuel K. Skinner
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

05312005

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Cannon Air Force Base is an essential link in our national security and has been since 1942. We were in another war then and found ourselves trying to make up for lost time training and equipping our armed forces. As a high school teacher, looking back at our military history, I have found that we tend to reduce and consolidate our forces after times of initial conflict. We are at war with an enemy that has no national borders or government and is intent on destroying our influence on the world. We only have to look back during the last century to see what will happen if we reduce our infrastructure in a time of our greatest need. We end up in a much larger conflict.

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1283 Colonial Parkway
Clovis, New Mexico 88101-3009

Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

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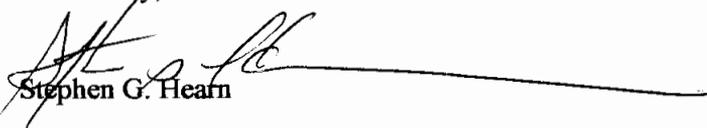
Dear Mr. Chairman,

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