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Dear BRAC Commissioners:

Cannon AFB has been a part of my community for my entire life! For as long as I can remember, I have heard the sound of freedom as jets have come and gone. I recall as a small child in elementary school, the windows rattling and shouts of joy from classmates, as we heard the sonic-boom in the distance. Many of my classmates were from military families, and two of my best-friends fathers were fighter pilots, one in the F-100 Super Saber, and the other the F-111. We didn't realize it at the time, but we were helping those families get through tough days, weeks and months while their fathers were flying combat missions over Vietnam.

I realize times change, and all sectors of business are looking to maximize efficiency - it's a matter of survival. If all facts are considered and Cannon is truly no longer a viable, contributing component in our military's ability to protect and to serve - I can live with that. However, I find it difficult to understand why installations with serious encroachment issues are more viable than Cannon. It would appear that Cannon, with available space to expand, in a very low-cost region, is ideal for the next generation aircraft, including unmanned technology. In fact, we have been keenly interested in protecting Cannon from encroachment, with the local community contributing hard-earned dollars to purchase additional air easements and land, giving these assets back to the Air Force.

I am also concerned about recent news releases from congressional representatives, that key data related to Cannon being targeted for closure is not being released as required. This fact alone will make the task difficult for local and state leaders to assess the data and prepare to make our case before the BRAC Commission. Some of the data that has been released indicates that some key information is outdated and/or incorrect!

I realize time is short, and you have a monumental task before you. It may not be fair for me to ask that you give considerable attention to Cannon - after all, you have a number of installations to consider. But then, Cannon is the Base most important to me and my community - and your full attention is precisely what I'm asking for. Some things just don't show up on a balance sheet. Whatever your decision, Cannon personnel will continue to be welcomed into our schools, churches, businesses and homes for as long as they are here. Cannon is a part of our community, and over the years, many of Cannon's personnel have become part of my family.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  


Lance R. Adkins  
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