



DCN: 2638

P.O. Box 846 • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0846
Phone (505) 982-5573 • 1-800-432-2036
FAX No. 1-505-984-1392

June 15, 2005



06202005

Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Ste. 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Chairman Principi:

The New Mexico Municipal League's Board of Directors, representing all 102 municipalities, met on Saturday, June 4th, 2005 and the closure of Cannon Air Force Base (AFB) was an item for discussion on our agenda. Our Board voted unanimously to support the retention of Cannon AFB in Clovis.

It is our understanding that Cannon has recently refurbished both runways and other infrastructure. With this infrastructure Cannon AFB has the capacity to expand its mission. Cannon's close proximity to the Melrose Bombing Range is an asset, especially with the finalization of the New Mexico Training Range Initiative. This initiative will allow supersonic training at the Melrose Bomb Range.

New Mexico municipalities, especially the Cities of Clovis and Portales and the State of New Mexico have all made a great commitment to Cannon AFB. The commitments, relationships and partnerships that have been forged between these entities have provided much value to the accomplishment of Cannon's mission.

Needless to say, the closure of the Base will have a tremendous impact on the surrounding communities. Housing markets will be depressed. Businesses will see a decline in sales. Schools will be impacted negatively by the funding formula for education. Generally, eastern New Mexico and west Texas will experience an economic set-back.

While the impact on the communities should be a concern for the Commission, it is the capabilities of Cannon AFB to perform an expanded role in the defense of our Country that this federal installation should remain open and stay in New Mexico.

On behalf of all 102 municipalities in the State, the New Mexico Municipal League supports the retention of Cannon Air Force Base in maintaining or expanding its mission. We in New Mexico are very proud of the role Cannon AFB and the Cities of Clovis and Portales have played in defending our Country, today as well as in WW II and the Korean Conflict. We respectfully request your favorable reconsideration in the retention of Cannon Air Force Base.

Sincerely,

Carol Robertson Lopez
Carol Robertson Lopez, President
New Mexico Municipal League

- cc: US Senator Pete Domenici
- US Senator Jeff Bingaman
- US Representative Heather Wilson
- US Representative Steve Pearce
- US Representative Tom Udall
- Mayor David M. Lansford, City of Clovis
- Mayor Orlando Ortega, Jr., City of Portales

LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS - 1229 PASEO DE PERALTA
On the Inner Loop, South of the State Capitol



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Honorable James H. Bilbray
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Ste. 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Commissioner Bilbray:

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June 15, 2005



Brigadier General Sue E. Turner
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Ste. 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Commissioner Turner:

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General James T. Hill
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Honorable James V. Hansen
BRAC Commission
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Arlington, Virginia 22202

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Honorable Philip Coyle
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Ste. 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Commissioner Coyle:

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Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Ste. 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Commissioner Gehman:

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General Lloyd W. Newton
BRAC Commission
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Commissioner Newton:

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Honorable Samuel K. Skinner
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Ste. 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

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