

BRAC Commission:

I am a self-employed Snap-On Tool dealer in Clovis, New Mexico. I am totally opposed to the closure of Cannon Air Force Base. The economic impact on my business and thus my family's livelihood will be greatly affected. Clovis is not big enough to sustain such an impact. The other reasons I have that Cannon should not be on the list are as follows:

- *Cannon does not fit the criteria provided for base closure.
- *The base has an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues.
- *Once the NM Training Range Initiative is implemented, we will be able to offer pilots the ability to fly supersonic during training missions. This is very important as it will allow the Air Force to better train for real life situations.
- *The Melrose bombing range is seconds from Cannon. This allows pilots to get airborne and immediately begin training operations, rather than spending fuel just to get to the range, surely this will save money.
- *Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war fighting, training and readiness as evidenced by the recent training between Cannon and the US Navy.
- *Cannon has ample space/ramp space to accommodate surge force requirements in training and emergency situations.
- *The availability of air space and ideal flying weather makes Cannon the perfect candidate to support future training missions for the F-22, Joint Strike Fighter and other military aircraft.
- *Cannon has won countless awards, both on ACC level, Air Force and NAF levels and national and STAT levels.
- *The relationship between Cannon and the surrounding towns is extremely unlike any other installation in the country. This should be very important.
- *Clovis and surrounding towns are home to a large military retiree population. These people rely on Cannon for healthcare, grocery and shopping.
- *In the early 1990s Curry County along with the state of New Mexico purchased air easements around Cannon and GAVE them to the Air Force.
- *The local community purchased land around Cannon and GAVE it back to the Air Force for additional housing and for the installation of instrument lighting on the alternate runway.
- *Leaders in our community headed the effort to expand and convert the air space to supersonic capability through the New Mexico Training Range Initiative.

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In conclusion, the community has reached out and supported the base like no other community over the last 50 years. We have done so financially, morally, spiritually and above all consistently.

Being a pilot myself, I can not imagine never seeing or hearing the jets ever again.

I beg you to please reconsider the decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raef Albracht".

Raef Albracht