

5-20-05

DCN: 4235

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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi

I am very concerned about the BRAC Commission's decision to close Cannon Air Force Base.

I do not believe the Commission is fully aware of the unique attributes that Cannon offers to our national defense. These include an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues, a bombing range that is only seconds away, the airspace to fly at supersonic speeds, and ideal year-around flying weather, among many others.

In addition to the military value to the Nation, Cannon has been supported over 50 years by the local communities like no other in the country. We consider Cannon a part of our family.

The closure of Cannon will also have a devastating impact on our economy. It has been estimated that the area will lose at least 20 percent of its workforce, plus the ripple effect that we will have on our public and higher education systems.

Please reconsider all the facts in your final decision.

Respectfully Yours,

Michael C. Marshall

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