

Dear Anthony J. Principi,

As a New Mexico resident for more than 10 years now Cannon Air Force Base has affected my life, and my surrounding communities in many ways. I lived across the highway from Cannon for many years. Even though I am not personally affiliated with the base itself, I, along with many others still continue to be affected by its every action.

The base has been there as long as I can remember. The base has shared a bond with its surroundings for more than 50 years now. Changing this would leave the economy and surrounding areas left to fade away. The base has brought a rise in economy to Eastern New Mexico and parts of West Texas. All the new businesses would struggle, because more than half of their business comes from the people of Cannon, their family and friends.

Before living in New Mexico I lived in Atwater, California and I was there when the closing of Castle Air Base took place. I might have been young but I still knew what was going on. The base went down and so did the town. The town had just begun to grow just as Clovis is expanding. Today, looking back at Atwater you see that the base property was taken over by a maximum-security prison. In my opinion this is what would happen to Clovis and nobody around here needs that. Who knows who will take over the property and what will happen to it. Even if no body does anything with it, still it will be left to rot away.

The relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and the surrounding towns; such as: Clovis, Portales, West Texas and many others, is unlike any other installation in the country. These are smaller well-rounded cities, which finally found their chance to grow and they took it.

I believe it would be a big mistake to close Cannon leaving all of Eastern New Mexico and West Texas to fend for itself. Our communities extremely need Cannon as part of their everyday life. In the early 90s. Curry County, as well as the State of New Mexico, purchased air easements around Cannon Air Force Base and GAVE them to the Air Force. This was done to protect that air space and this was an important issue for the Air Force. At the least the Air Force can do is stay around and continue helping our communities in our times of need.

We have supported the base like no other community over the last 50 years. We have done so financially, morally, spiritually, and most of all consistently. So what is to stop us now? Part of the Air Forces Mission is that: "Our company measures its success by its impact on the world, our country and the lives of its men and women." So please let us continue to help the base, and more than all let the base help us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Audra Scofield



RECEIVED
4/25/03

Dear Samuel K. Skinner.

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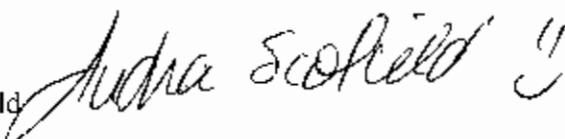
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5/25/05

Dear Lloyd W. Newton,

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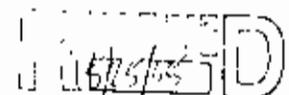
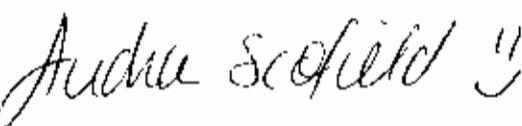
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Dear Philip Coyle,

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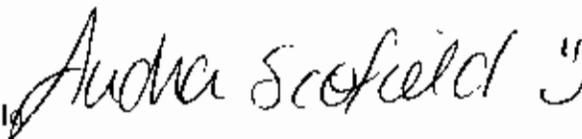
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5/25/05

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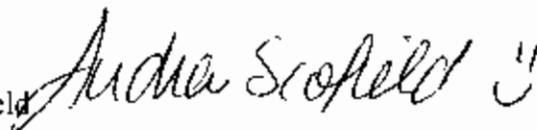
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7/15/05

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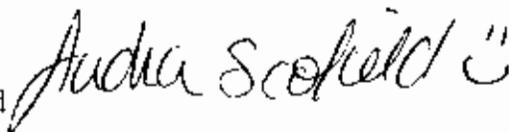
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