

AUG 19 2005

## Received

## Dear BRAC Committee,

We the surrounding communities of Curry and Roosevelt County that have had the honor of having Cannon AFB a part of our community for more than 50 years. There are many reasons that Cannon should NOT be closed.

Some of the things are the abundance of air space, void of any encroachment issues, the future use of super sonic flying, the fabulous weather that permits a year round training ability. In addition, the Melrose bombing range is seconds from the end of the runways at Cannon, which allows pilots to get airborne and immediately begin their training operations over the area.

In the early 90's, Curry County, in conjunction with the state of New Mexico purchased air easements around Cannon AFB and GAVE them the to the Air Force. This was done to protect that air space from encroachments and was an important issue for the Air Force as it is today. The local community purchased land North of Cannon AFB and GAVE it back to the Air Force for additional housing, now known as Chavez Manor. Within the last few years, our community purchased land West of Cannon and GAVE it back to the Air Force for the installation of instrument lighting on the alternate runway at the base.

Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war fighting, training, and readiness as was evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy. Cannon has won countless awards, both on the ACC level, Air Force and NAF levels, and national and STAT levels.

As hopefully you will personally witness, the relationship between Cannon AFB and the surrounding towns: Clovis, Portales, Lubbock, Amarillo and many others is UNLIKE ANY OTHER INSTALLATION IN THE COUNTRY. These towns are home to large military retiree populations which rely on Cannon AFB for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more.

Our community has reached out and supported the base like no other community over the past 50 years. We've done so financially, morally, spiritually and above all, consistently. We are proud, honored and blessed to have Cannon Air Force Base and will stand behind it and everything it stands for. The sound of those jets flying over is the sound of FREEDOM!

Sincerely,

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By signing you are allowing additional copies to be made and mailed to the following; CC: BRAC Commissioners; Anthony J. Principi, James H. Bilbray, Philip Coyle, Harold W. Gehman Jr., James V. Hansen, James T. Hill, Lloyd "Fig" Newton, Samuel Knox Skinner, Sue Ellen Turner, President George W. Bush, Mrs. Laura Bush, Gov. Bill Richardson, Senators; Pete Domenici, Jeff Bingaman Rep. Tom Udall, Heather Wilson