



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
*Governor*

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### **Governor Richardson Tells Air Force Officials He Is Willing To Call Special Legislative Session To Save Cannon Air Force Base If Necessary**

Clovis, NM: During a briefing given to Governor Richardson by Air Force officials on the status of identifying a new mission for Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis today, Governor Bill Richardson said he would call a special session of the legislature next year if that's what it took to save Cannon Air Force Base.

"Cannon Air Force Base accounts for nearly a third of the entire eastern New Mexico economy. I have said from the beginning that I would do anything within my power to keep this base open. I let the Air Force officials know that the state would be prepared to do whatever it took in providing assistance to secure a permanent mission for Cannon. I told them that once they know the specific mission requirements, infrastructure, roads, schools, I'd call the legislature back into session if necessary to get it done," Governor Richardson said.

Governor Richardson met today in Clovis with Colonel John D. Posner, 27<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Commander at Cannon Air Force Base, Colonel Dave Johansen, Air Force Team lead and Brigadier General Ron Ladnier of the Air Force Team and local community leaders. The Air Force Team was sent to Cannon to gather and compile all the asset information available that could support alternative future missions for Cannon.

A new mission could be identified for Cannon as early as the spring of 2006. Language pending in a House-Senate Conference Committee in Congress sponsored by New Mexico Senators Bingaman and Domenici would prohibit the Air Force from moving any assets from Cannon until a new mission is identified.

The Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) voted to keep Cannon open until 2010 and instructed the Pentagon to designate a new mission. The Pentagon had initially recommended the closure of Cannon Air Force Base, a decision reversed by the BRAC Commissioners.

Governor Richardson has stated he will work with the New Mexico Congressional delegation to secure a new mission for Cannon as quickly as possible.

"It's vitally important to the state and to the people of eastern New Mexico that we move quickly to resolve this and provide continuity and assurances for the community and for local businesses. I am optimistic after the meeting I had today that the Air Force and the Pentagon are moving expeditiously to identify a new mission," Governor Richardson said.