



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

News Release

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Governor Richardson Continues To Fight To Get Cannon Air Force Base Off Base Closure List- Meets With Last Two BRAC Commissioners

Senate Minority Leader, Stuart Ingle (R-Portales), joins Governor Richardson and Hanson Scott, Director of the State Office of Military Base Planning and Support to make the case for Cannon AFB

WASHINGTON, DC: Governor Bill Richardson today met in Washington, D.C. with two Commissioners on the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC), Commission Chairman Anthony Principi and Commissioner General Lloyd W. "Fig" Newton (USAF, Retired), to urge them to help remove Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis from the list of bases scheduled to be closed. The Governor, as promised, has now met in person with all nine BRAC commissioners.

"Today's meetings were cordial and productive, and while I am encouraged by the response from the Commission, we still face an uphill battle to Keep Cannon," said the Governor. "I have been proud of how New Mexicans have come together to help save Cannon and I'm hopeful we can get it done."

The Governor was joined at the meetings by Senator Stuart Ingle, the Minority Leader for the New Mexico State Senate, and retired General Hanson Scott, Director of the New Mexico Office of Military Base Planning and Support. The group presented the BRAC commissioners with three new elements adding to the case to keep Cannon AFB open:

- Opportunities for future missions for Cannon, including joint training exercises with aircraft from other branches of the military,
- Showcasing the strategic depth and growth opportunities for Cannon, including the base's ability to grow and expand to meet future national security requirements, and
- Senator Ingle effectively demonstrated how closing Cannon would devastate the eastern New Mexico economy, including the communities of Clovis and Portales. Senator Ingle informed the commissioners the true economic impact of closing the base is 30%, not the original estimate of 20%.

“As I have said many times, we have a strong case and I have conveyed the facts to every Commissioner I have met with. We began planning for this in 2003 and now it is paying off,” said Governor Richardson. “We need five votes. I will continue to travel anywhere and do anything I can to save Cannon Air Force base.

The nine BRAC Commissioners Governor Richardson has met face to face with are:

James Hansen in Salt Lake City

Sue Ellen Turner in Santa Fe

James Bilbray in Las Vegas

Sam Skinner in Washington, D.C.

Admiral Harold Gehman in Pensacola, Florida

General James Hill in Miami

Philip Coyle in Los Angeles

Chairman Anthony Principi in Washington, D.C., and

General Lloyd “Fig” Newton (USAF, ret) in Washington, D.C.

Five votes are required to reverse the Pentagon recommendations.