



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson meets with Air Force Secretary and BRAC officials in Utah, Nevada about saving Cannon Air Force Base

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson is traveling to Washington, D.C., today to meet with Acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael Dominguez about New Mexico's efforts to keep Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis open.

"I requested a meeting with Secretary Dominguez to present my concerns and discuss several mistakes we believe were made during the evaluation of Cannon," Governor Bill Richardson said. "It's clear the Pentagon shortchanged Cannon on issues such as the availability of airspace for the New Mexico Training Range Initiative, the base's value to the nation's military mission and the fact that there is no encroachment upon the base in Clovis."

Governor Richardson will travel later this week to Nevada and Utah to meet with two members of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Governor Richardson will meet with Commissioner James V. Hanson, a former Congressman from Utah, on Friday, June 10, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Governor Richardson will also meet with James H. Bilbray, a former Congressman from Nevada, on Sunday, June 12, in Las Vegas, NV.

"I promised the people of Clovis that I would work with the community to do everything possible to save Cannon," Governor Bill Richardson said. "Our congressional delegation is working closely with leaders in Washington, D.C. to save Cannon. I will travel to the home states of the BRAC commissioners to argue for Cannon and show that New Mexico is serious about keeping the base open."

Soon after the decision by the Bush Administration to back the Pentagon's decision to include Cannon Air Force Base on the base-closure list, Governor Richardson led a Town Hall meeting in Clovis to meet with local officials to launch the fight to overturn this flawed decision by the Bush Administration.

Governor Richardson also authorized the use of \$300,000 to hire two firms, Hyjek and Fix and Keystone International, Inc. to assist in the fight to overturn Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's recommendation and keep Cannon AFB open.

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