



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

News Release

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Governor Bill Richardson to Meet with Three More BRAC Commissioners Wednesday and Thursday

Santa Fe - Governor Bill Richardson today announced that he has scheduled three more meetings with Base Realignment and Closing (BRAC), Commissioners Wednesday and Thursday. The Governor will travel to Washington, D. C. on June 15 to meet with BRAC Commissioner and former Secretary of Transportation, Sam Skinner. The Governor will be accompanied by Hanson Scott, Director of the State office for Military Base Planning and Support. "Face to face meetings with each commissioner are critical to our overall efforts to overturn the Pentagon's decision to close Cannon Air Force Base. I will stress Cannon's strategic and technical importance to national security, Cannon's military value and the base's expanded supersonic airspace for training and the tremendous economic impact on New Mexico should the base be closed," Governor Richardson said. "I will also focus on the lack of encroachment on the Base and its mission, a key condition mandated in the military analysis," Governor Richardson added.

"We need five votes out of the nine BRAC Commissioners to take Cannon off the list for closure. That's why these meetings are so important," Governor Richardson said.

Later Wednesday afternoon, the Governor will travel to Pensacola, Florida to meet with BRAC Commissioner, Admiral Harold Gehman.

On Thursday, June 16 Governor Richardson will meet with BRAC Commissioner General James Hill in Miami, Florida.

Hanson Scott will accompany the Governor to all three meetings.

The Governor will return to New Mexico Thursday evening.

The Regional BRAC meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2005 in Clovis, New Mexico

Governor Bill Richardson hosted BRAC Commissioner, General Sue Ellen Turner for a working meeting at the Governor's mansion last Saturday along with Lt. Governor Diane Denish, who heads the state's Military Base Planning Commission and Hanson Scott.

Last Thursday, Governor Richardson met with BRAC Commissioner James Hansen in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Governor traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada Sunday to meet with BRAC Commissioner and former Congressman James Bilbray. The Governor also talked with BRAC Commission Chairman Anthony Principi Friday afternoon by phone.

"I will continue to go anywhere and do anything I can to keep Cannon open. I am working with our entire Congressional delegation to prepare for the BRAC regional hearing in Clovis on June 24th," Governor Richardson said.

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