



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Contact: Billy Sparks
(505) 476-2299

BRAC Commission Report To President Confirms: Cannon Open and Secretary of Defense Shall Seek Another Mission

SANTA FE - The BRAC Commission issued its report to the President for review today confirming the fact that the Secretary of Defense will have until December 31, 2009 to designate another mission for Cannon Air Force Base and keep the base open. Cannon Air Force Base had been targeted for closure by the Defense Department." It was a hard battle, but this gives us four years to find another mission. I am pleased that the recommendations say the Secretary of Defense SHALL seek other missions from ALL military services. That means we are wide open to pursue missions from the Army and Navy as well as the Air Force," Governor Richardson said.

Governor Richardson personally visited with all nine BRAC Commissioners during their deliberations and attended the final BRAC hearings in Washington to lobby to keep the base off the closure list. "Had we lost, and Cannon remained on the closure list, the impact would have been devastating for the economy of Eastern New Mexico," Governor Richardson said. "The people of Eastern New Mexico, Clovis and Portales and the Congressional Delegation joined with me in putting politics aside and fighting to keep Cannon open. Today, even though we still have to work together to get the mission, is a day we can all be proud of," Governor Richardson said.

"We dodged the bullet. We still have work to do, but we did not die today," Governor Richardson said.

BRAC Report to the President Key Applicable Excerpts

Commission Findings on Cannon Air Force Base

“The Commission further found that there was merit in disestablishing the 27th fighter wing and distributing its aircraft as recommended by DOD.

The Commission also found that realigning Cannon Air Force Base as an enclave would enable DOD to meet potential needs for additional air base capacity.”

Commission Recommendations:

“After disestablishing the 27th Fighter Wing, the Air Force shall establish an enclave at Cannon Air Force Base that shall remain open until December 31, 2009 during which time the Secretary of Defense shall seek other newly-identified missions with all military services for possible assignment to Cannon Air Force Base, NM.”

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