



For Immediate Release
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Governor Bill Richardson Announces Cannon AFB Gets Final Approval for New Mission

SANTA FE, NM – Governor Bill Richardson today announced that Cannon Air Force Base has received final approval for their new mission. This decision comes after the successful completion of the National Environmental Policy Act process that started in August 2006.

“With the finalization of the Air Force Special Operations Command environmental impact study, Cannon’s new mission can move forward,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “From the start, I pledged to do everything in my power to save Cannon Air Force Base. Today’s decision is great news for the people of Eastern New Mexico.”

The Special Operations wing will “stand up” on October 1, 2007.

The active duty population at Cannon is expected to grow to about 4,400 to 5,600 people. There will be approximately 100 aircraft stationed at the base.

“On behalf of the hard working and committed residents of Clovis, Portales and surrounding communities, I’d like to recognize the Department of Defense for taking into account all of the great things that Cannon has to offer a new mission,” said Governor Richardson.

Lt. Governor Diane Denish said, "As Chair of the New Mexico Military Base Planning Commission, I want to thank my fellow members of the BRAC for their efforts in working with the U.S. Air Force to move forward with establishing a New Mexico Special Operations Wing at Cannon Air Force Base. Today is a great day for celebration, knowing that all requirements and assessments are satisfied and the National Environmental Policy Act process has been completed. The Clovis Community and all New Mexicans have shown their continuous commitment to taking care of the men and women of the U.S. Air Force."

New Mexico's advantages for Air Force special operations training were recognized by the United States Special Operations Command in the late 1980s when the decision was

made by the Air Force and USSOCOM to change the primary mission of the flying wing at Kirtland to special operations initial qualification training.

Thus, Cannon is an ideal location for a special operations wing: varied terrain, air space and ranges, many low-level routes, outstanding weather, and a very supportive community.

For more information contact Air Force Special Operations Command Public Affairs at (850) 884-5515.

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