



State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

Col. Henry L. Andrews, Jr.
KAFB Commander
377th Air Base Wing
2000 Wyoming Blvd. SE, Suite D-2
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117-5606

February 5, 2004

Dear Colonel Andrews:

I am writing about the proposed closure of the Otero Canyon recreational trail network at the edge of the Kirtland Air Force Base Withdrawal Area.

As you know I am a strong supporter of Kirtland, its mission, and its personnel. You are important to our nation's security and to Albuquerque and New Mexico. New Mexicans appreciate and support your presence.

In the case of the recreational trails, I am hopeful that you can find some way of moving the proposed eastern perimeter fence so that it would lie between the existing trails and the Base. While many elected officials around the state have offered their support for a modified fence location, it is also clear that the residents of the Albuquerque area, as well as tourists, have used and enjoyed those trails for decades. It is apparent that a sensible compromise is available on this issue.

If you are concerned about unexploded ordnance in the vicinity, I wonder whether another party might be contracted to assist with ascertaining whether there is a likely danger to the public using the trail.

Please let me know if there is some way that my office can assist in helping to keep this trail open and accessible to the public, without interfering with the important mission of the Base.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Richardson".

Bill Richardson
Governor

BR/nf