

DCN: 1889

1916 South Main Avenue  
Portales, NM 88130  
May 19, 2005

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BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

To Whom It May Concern:

Cannon Air Force Base is vital to the economic structure of Roosevelt and Curry Counties in New Mexico. Many people are employed on the base or in association with the base; many others are dependent upon the business of the military members and their families. Not only are businesses in the areas affected, but the schools will be affected in a huge way as well. Clovis and Portales Schools both welcome and enjoy students who are dependents of the military and civil service employees. Not only does their presence add to the financial status of the districts where they attend, but the experiences and resources that the students bring to our classrooms are invaluable!

Military personnel and services have become part of our communities. The military drug teams, bomb teams, and other units have aided our police and law enforcement departments in many situations. Also, these and other military units have been available as resources for our schools, civic organizations, and other service clubs.

Cannon has a perfect location. The air space is unimpeded by high rise buildings, mountains, and towers. Recently an initiative to increase air space has been discussed. Most air bases in the country can not boast about availability and extension of space for military training and flight operations.

When a country is at war, downsizing and relocating does not seem wise or cost effective. By having diverse and varied military locations, our country and its resources are not centrally located where an enemy could easily damage or destroy much of our military in one attack.

We are proud to have Cannon Air Force Base as part of our "family" in eastern New Mexico. We respectfully ask that you re-consider your ill-conceived plan to shut down the base which is home to one of the most successful and strongest fighting forces in the United States Air Force!

Sincerely,

*Marilyn Stratton*

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