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BRAC Commission
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KTF

Dear Members of the BRAC Commission,

I'm writing to encourage you to keep Cannon AFB open. Airplanes have been soaring through the clear blue skies over Clovis for over sixty years. Cannon AFB is a large part of the Clovis community.

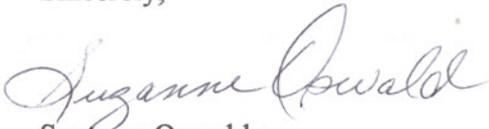
Cannon AFB is not just concrete and asphalt and a few brick buildings. Cannon AFB is your next door *neighbor* that just happens to wear combat boots and BDU's to work. Not all military members live in base housing, they are *homeowners*. It's your neighbor that mows the lawn on Saturday morning. The *soccer mom*, *little league coach* the *family* that cheers their *son* on at the high school football game. It's the *family* you see shopping at Wal-Mart, eating at the local fast food restaurants, and meeting *friends* at Chili's. It's the *audience* at the movie theater, school programs, the Christmas parade, the fireworks display on the 4th of July. It's a large part of the *congregation* that attends church, sings in the *choir*, the *teacher* of a Sunday school class. It's the *spouse* and *children* that go to the local dentist; take the *family pet* to the veterinarian.

Cannon AFB employs civilians that are husbands, wives, single mothers, retirees, widows and divorcees. Construction workers from the Clovis community build the office buildings, dormitories, run ways, front gate, fire department, dining hall, control tower and base housing.

Spend time in Clovis and you won't see smog, you won't hear car horns or sirens at all hours of the day and night. You won't see sky scrapers, casinos or traffic jams. You will see *sunny skies*; hear the sounds of *jet engines*, the sound of *train whistles*, the high school *band practicing* and *children playing*. Close this base and you will hear the sound of hearts breaking, real-estate prices plummeting, stores and businesses closing. You will see unemployment rise.

A base closure has an impact on any community but there is a BIG difference in the impact it has on a community of 30 thousand and the impact in a large metropolitan area. Move a couple of squadrons from Luke or Nellis and it would hardly be felt. Close Cannon AFB and you close down a town.

Sincerely,


Suzanne Oswald