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

Dear BRAC Commissioner,

I am writing this letter in support of the men and women of Clovis, New Mexico and Cannon Air Force Base, home of the 27th Fighter Wing. I recently retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Lieutenant General and had the pleasure of knowing many of the fine people of Cannon and Clovis. One of my last assignments was Commander of the Eighth Air Force. In that role, I had the responsibility of overseeing the operations of over 30 active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve bases with Cannon Air Force Base being one of my crown jewels.

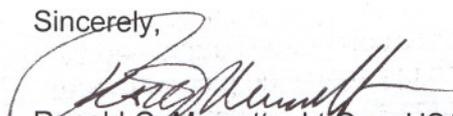
What made Cannon special was the tremendous support the base personnel received from Clovis and the surrounding communities. In all my 33 plus years of service I never experienced a more committed and supportive group of people. It was renowned and unmatched in our Air Force. You can imagine then, my surprise when I learned of the commission's recommendation to close Cannon. This has to be a devastating blow to Clovis given the fact that Cannon Air Force Base and its people are woven into the very fabric of the area.

The "Committee of Fifty", an organization spearheading the support for Cannon, unselfishly ensured that the people of Cannon were made to feel like family in every way -- from young airmen and officers to the leadership of the base -- no one was forgotten.

I can think of so many Air Force Bases where there was no appreciation of the sacrifices our Air Force people make everyday. The commission must reconsider this decision. To close Cannon in the face of what the communities have done for decades to ensure our Air Force men and women felt like Clovis was their home sends all the wrong signals. In addition, the Clovis economy will never recover from this blow -- what a payback for all they've done.

I stand ready to testify and/or provide you with any information you may require in considering this matter. The people, area and aerospace surrounding Cannon make it a national treasure -- something to be saved, not discarded.

Sincerely,

  
Ronald C. Marcotte, Lt Gen, USAF (Retired)