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May 25, 2005

Mr. Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

RE: Cannon AFB, Clovis, NM

Cannon AFB being on the closure list is understandable, if only basic data is considered. If 'in depth' information is secured and studied, a different decision should be reached.

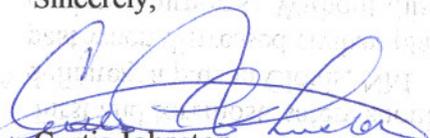
First and foremost, safety should be considered. Good weather and limited air traffic is definitely a plus in Clovis, NM. Additionally, there have been several occasions in the past when distressed civilian planes have used this facility, instead of other poorly equipped airports. Without this facility here, there would be none within over 100 miles with adequate fire fighting and rescue resources.

Second, the community welcomes the base and military people. That is not the case in many other cities. Military people here become part of the community, and frequently decide to stay after retirement.

Third, the cost of closing this facility will probably be greater than the savings. Moving some 4000 military people to areas that have higher living costs will require higher housing allowances, that will be ongoing. Expanding military facilities to accommodate them in areas of higher costs would undermine the cost savings.

It would make more sense to expand this base to be a multi-purpose facility to train all branches of service here. This terrain and geographic location makes much more sense than heavier populated areas.

Sincerely,



Curtis Johnston