

RECEIVED

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When I first arrived in Clovis in 1989, I was a young mom, scared and unsure. My husband worked long hours in the Air Force, on the flight line, at Cannon Air Force Base, Clovis, New Mexico. At first we lived in Clovis. We quickly learned Clovis was a nice community with friendly people. Soon after, we moved to base housing located on CAFB. My husband was always at work it seemed. I soon got a job working in town at a local bank. Every one was friendly and inquisitive. This was something I was not used to. I came from a small community that was located in a very large county (Sacramento, CA).

Many of the Clovis residents, and many military members that have since moved away, probably remember the year 1990 ... when all the military members and all the residents of Clovis got together on a search for a small boy. This boy had gone missing. Unlike many kids today, this boy was not kidnapped. However, at the time no one knew a thing. I remember my husband not coming home one night. I knew about the boy and I knew that people were looking for him. It never occurred to me, that "I" could help. Clovis and the members at Cannon AFB showed me by their involvement that "everyone" mattered and "everyone" counted. When my husband came home, late, late, that night he told me what he and several of his crew members had been doing. They weren't at work...they were in town, in fields, on county roads, searching and searching for this small boy. It broke my heart. I had never seen or heard such a thing. Growing up, we were told "not to talk to strangers," so I didn't; we were told, "never get involved in someone else's business," so I didn't. But the next day, I too was out searching. I can't say I did a very good job, I didn't even know the area and was too scared to go places I didn't recognize. But I still did what I could. Thanks to the community of Clovis and CAFB this little boy was found, it took nearly a week, but he was found.

Today, 2005, I know lots of strangers.

These strangers come from CAFB, from Clovis, from Portales, and from many of the surrounding areas.

These strangers **have become not only my friends, but my family.**

I know that if I needed something, anything, I could count on "everyone" in this area.

It's not because of the United States Air Force, but because of **Cannon Air Force Base** combined with the **community of Clovis**, located in this desert area... we know living here, working here, loving here, together ... it all just works!

**Keep Cannon AFB, Clovis, New Mexico on the map. Keep our family together!**

I've been here a long time; I have lots of stories to tell. This is just the beginning of many to come...to be continued...

We urge you to reconsider any decision made regarding the B.R.A.C. list and Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico. Take us OFF the list now!

Thank you for listening. We trust God, and in the name of Jesus Christ, we are putting our trust in a good and logical system.

MSgt Patrick Flanigen, Retired

Veronica Clark Flanigen

Michael

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