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

RE: CANNON AIR FORCE BASE

I strongly believe the Air Force and Defense Department misapplied the criteria in assessing Cannon Air Force Base. I thought the BRAC is about closing bases that cannot deliver real military value for the country. Cannon provides tremendous military value because it is a modern, cost-effective base, with no encroachment and unrestricted airspace. I believe Cannon has a compelling case and the data on Cannon needs to be thoroughly analyzed by the commission. I believe we have equally persuasive arguments for removing Cannon Air Force Base off the recommended BRAC closure list.

If Secretary Rumsfeld's Defense Department recommendations are adopted, New Mexico will face thousands of lost jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in lost economic activity. As I write this letter, things in Clovis have literally come to a stand still. The banks are not approving loans, housing developments are put on hold, and real estate companies are not selling houses. Just by Cannon being on the list has affected Clovis's economy and the surrounding areas as well.

Cannon AFB is important not only to Clovis but to New Mexico as Cannon plays a vital role in the defense of our nation. Great efforts are kept to ensure New Mexico's bases are in great shape whether it is Holloman, Kirtland, or White Sands. It is an understatement to say that New Mexico was surprised by the Pentagon's decision as it is wrong because Cannon provides many military services through training via landspace and airspace and New Mexico will fight to ensure that Cannon remains a vital component of our defense.

It was very disappointing to learn that the New Mexico Training Range was not included in the analysis of Cannon AFB. The low cost and high efficiency of year round, over land operations at Cannon is well known. The new airspace study re-enforced the superior quality of expanded training in New Mexico. Therefore, it makes no sense to close Cannon. In addition, Cannon has won numerous awards for their achievements.

Now on the personal side, my dad has been employed at Cannon for 25 years. My dad is not of retirement age as of yet, so the closing of Cannon is a detrimental impact on my family's income. Not only that, I just graduated from college at UNM and my sister has been accepted to the College of Nursing Program which is an additional 2 years of college. My parents support two households and my dad is dependent on his job at Cannon. Please, I am asking the BRAC commission to re-evaluate Cannon as this greatly affects my family.

Thank you for re-considering Cannon.

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