

June 10, 2005

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Anthony J. Principi; The Honorable James H. Bilbray; The Honorable Philip Coyle; Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr.; The Honorable James V. Hansen; General James T. Hill; General Lloyd W. Newton; The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner; and Brigadier General Sue E. Turner
Brac Commission
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Members:

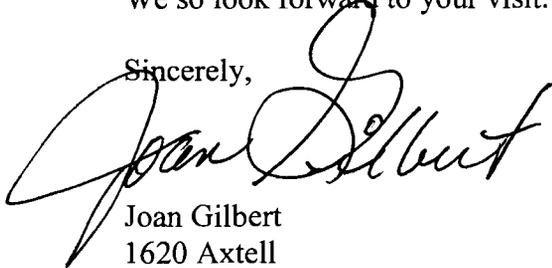
I am not a native of Clovis, New Mexico, I am a transplant. I came here from Baltimore, Maryland in 1993. It did not take long for me to learn of Cannon Air Force Base and its importance to my adopted community. Cannon is an integral part of what make Clovis special. When I first arrived, the economy was rather slow and stagnant. Over the last year and a half, the city has started to boom. Things are finally looking encouraging around here. Now here comes Donald Rumsfeld with his BRAC list with Cannon on it. How can this even be possible?

Having come from a huge area where military bases are surrounded by cities and large airports, I find this difficult to fathom. The flying time available to pilots at Cannon must be unlimited. There are no large public airports necessitating extra caution around our Base. The town has not grown around the Base. It would seem that conditions here could be viewed as a paradise for flight missions. The nearby Melrose Bombing Range alone should be enough to keep Cannon open forever.

Clovis will survive without the base, but you know what? We love our military friends and those who retired here. We do not want to lose them from our families. You will see just how important they are to us when you visit later this month. Hopefully, you will see how important Cannon Air Force Base is to the mission of the United States Air Force and send the message on to Mr. Rumsfeld that he has made a heinous error. Either he or one of his aides must surely have some sort of personal agenda with our State or City. Could it possibly be with our Democratic Governor? I hate to even suggest such things, but what is one to think?

We so look forward to your visit. I believe you will feel very welcome in Clovis.

Sincerely,



Joan Gilbert
1620 Axtell
Clovis, NM 88101