

Harold W Gehman Jr.  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Va.,22202

DCN 3385



Regarding: Removing Cannon AFB from the BRAC list

Dear Mr. Gehman,

As a citizen of the town of Clovis New Mexico I am very concerned about the recommendation to close Cannon Air Force Base. I feel there were many things which were not taken into consideration when the recommendation was made.

I remember that prior to WW II the mind set was that we no longer needed a strong military. WW I was to have eliminated the need. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor there was a scramble to build a military capable of defending our country. Citizens rallied around and we were able to overcome obstacles. With today's sophisticated weaponry that time frame will not be available. We must be ready and not become complacent again. When our country is perceived as weak we become vulnerable. A strong and well placed military is essential.

Cannon AFB is a premium installation. It has won many awards for excellence. It has air space available, land available, ideal weather conditions for most of the year and plenty of room to grow. Also there is no smog or pollution. Cannon has the facilities and ramp space to accommodate surge force requirements in training and emergency situations. The readiness of Cannon was recently shown by the joint training effort between Cannon and the Us Navy. Many funds have already been spent to upgrade the facility, create a new runway, build a new tower and other important projects. Closure would mean those funds were wasted.

The military people are an integral part of our community. Our climate is good and people are friendly. For the most part., we do have a few grouches! There are many military retirees who have settled here because of the climate and the nearness of Cannon. The shopping and eating facilities are expanding, the schools are excellent, there is a fine medical facility that is growing and adding services and there is sufficient quality housing.

Having lived in the El Paso Texas area from the 1950's till 1972 I witnessed the encroachment of the city of El Paso on the military installations there. Clovis however, has successfully made effort to keep this from happening and to accommodate military needs.

Please consider the huge negative economic impact that will occur if Cannon AFB is closed. Clovis alone will loose an estimated 25% in sales (\$62 million) each year. The well being of our citizens is at stake as businesses will close, schools become under funded and crime increase due to poor economic conditions. Please, consider both the importance of the base to our National Security and to the citizens of Eastern New Mexico. and keep Cannon AFB open.

Sincerely;  
*Diana Elliott*  
Diana Elliott  
805 Sunrise  
Clovis NM 88101

James H Bilbray  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Va.,22202



**RECEIVED**  
**BRAC Commission**  
**Received**

6/23/2005

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