

DCN 3392

June 10, 2005

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

BRAC Commission
Received
6/23/2005

ATTENTION: The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner

RE: Cannon Air Force Base Closure

Dear Mr. Skinner,

We are senior citizens of Clovis, New Mexico. Ralph was in field service with General Dynamics (now Lockheed Martin) and was assigned to Cannon AFB as part of a Special Forces Repair team to assist Air Force personnel with electronic maintenance of the F-111D during 1974-78. Because of the respect he received, as well as for all service personnel, from this community, the great weather, the open spaces, and hometown atmosphere, we decided to move to Clovis from Arlington, Texas when we retired.

Clovis NEEDS and FULLY supports Cannon Air Force Base. Plains Regional Hospital has expanded its services, new doctors have come to Clovis, new businesses are coming to our city, our schools are augmented by the revenues collected for service and civil employees. Our churches welcome the diversity of Air Force personnel. A large military retirement population in eastern New Mexico and western Texas receive services offered at Cannon Air Force Base. Clovis is a city that is proud to be the home of Cannon Air Force Base. The sound of jet engines flying over our city is "music to our ears".

Our son is a mechanic at Bender Honda-Nissan and has stated to us that over 50% of his work involves Air Force personnel. He said he would have to move from Clovis to have enough work to support his family. That sentiment is repeated all over the city of Clovis.

Thank you for coming to our city for the BRAC hearings. Our city and surrounding communities, county, and state representatives look forward to sharing with you why Cannon should be removed from the recommended closure list. We welcome the opportunity to help you understand why we know Cannon Air Force Base is a vital facility, not only to our city and surrounding communities, but more importantly, to the defense of our nation.

Sincerely,

Ralph and Selma Hines

Ralph and Selma Hines
178 Sandzen Drive
Clovis, NM 88101