

May 23, 2005

BRAC commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Va., 22202

BRAC Commission
Received
6/23/2005

Dear BRAC commission,

I wanted to write this letter to say how important Cannon Air Force Base is to me and my family. I grew up in Clovis and Cannon has always been a big part of my life. My father was stationed at Cannon when he and my mother met. As with Military life they then moved on to other bases. When they chose a town to retire in they returned to Clovis. Many retirees' have done the same thing. The retirees in this area would have no place close to go for medical care, commissary, etc. Clovis is a town unlike many others. It is an excellent place to raise children and I know from first hand experience that with Military life there aren't many bases where the Military Family is so welcomed and the children so well liked. Military life is difficult on the family unit and Clovis does well in supporting that. It is difficult on the spouses to maintain all the household duties as well as anything and everything that comes with the kids and just normal daily life and I feel like the Portales and Clovis area is an area that is always willing to lend a helping hand. I work in the Clovis School system and I work at a school that is dedicated specifically to the base. Ranchvale Elementary is located just a few miles outside of Cannon's main gate. We see many kids whose parent's are deployed and we see how hard it is for the child to go through that but we try to make school a place where they are secure even when everything else in their life is in an uproar. Anytime a child's parent is deployed whether it is for a short TDY or an extended tour in Iraq we have it noted in the office and all school personnel is informed that way if anything changes behaviorally or academically we are there for immediate support to help the child and their family. I live a short distance from the base and there are times at night that I can hear the planes going over and I get a sense of pride knowing that they are training to keep my family and I safe. The constant airplane noise does not bother me one bit and I can say that most of the town doesn't get irritated by it either. I remember being stationed at bases where everyone was constantly complaining about that and it seemed like they did not appreciate what the Air Force was doing for them. I don't feel this area is like that. I have a friend who is a pilot and he broke the sound barrier twice last month. I don't feel that would be acceptable in other towns. This area is perfect for year round training and we recently had a joint training with the Navy. They are in the process of implementing a Training Range Initiative that will allow the pilots to fly supersonic and will also accommodate the F-22. I don't feel like the pilots can get this type of training in a city. I look at Albuquerque and I can't see that the pilots would have such freedom as they do here. I have looked at the Criteria for closure and I can't see where Cannon fit in. I do not understand why they would even be considered. Cannon has won numerous awards and seem to always be meeting Air Force requirements so I do not see why closure would benefit the military. I feel like closing so many bases just thins out our military even more and almost sets us up for another 9-11. I volunteered at the Staten Island Homeport Rescue Center and I can honestly say I don't ever want to see something like that happen again. I feel like Closing Cannon just sets this whole area up. Clovis and Portales have always had a strong partnership with the base and I know Clovis has given land in the past to the base for housing among other things. Please consider taking Cannon off the list and looking more closely at why it was even put on in the first place.

Sincerely,

Carol Davis