

Dr. Ruthie Hefner
204 Prairieview Drive
Clovis, New Mexico 88101
(505) 763-3670
hefnerr@plateautel.net

BRAC Commission
Received
6/23/2005

June 7, 2005

Dear Madame/Sir:

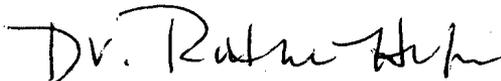
As you can imagine, eastern New Mexico is in turmoil of such a magnitude that I have never witnessed in all of my life. The Department of Defense's decision to recommend the closure of Cannon Air Force Base has longitudinal consequences unimaginative to those of you who are not a part of this thriving rural community.

As a native of Clovis, I grew up in a community which valued and fostered the unique relationship between CAFB and rural eastern New Mexico. I was educated in the public schools and have retained lifelong friendships with children of Cannon personnel. Their participation in community and school activities coupled with their diverse life experiences, provided Clovis students and citizens with varying perspectives and an open-mindedness uncharacteristic of a rural farming community. Without singleness of mind, Clovis has remained a tolerant, multicultural community that appreciates and welcomes the diversity that CAFB provides this community. The cultural void that will be felt by all Clovis citizens cannot be replaced nor reproduced if this decision to close CAFB is not reversed.

As a political sociologist, I realize that consideration of the "masses" is not always a popular view or one that is politically wise, yet the affect of this closure is profound. Clovis and its surrounding communities have so integrated Cannon into our very essence, that the void will be immense and its affects, profound. Not only will our economic and social infrastructure suffer greatly, but our faith in American politics will be forever questioned. For a community to have embraced the military with such vigor and then to have our social and economic community brutalized with a mere brush of a pen, is simply unimaginable.

Please reconsider the lives and livelihoods that you are affecting with your macrolevel approach to defense initiatives by the Bush Administration. Cannon Air Force Base has functioned effectively for fifty years and now, without a thought of the citizens for which it is affecting, you change the lives of a population already struggling to recover from the insecurities of an international crisis and domestic disaster.

Thank you for this opportunity,



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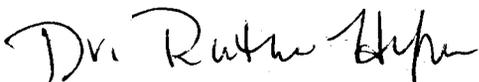
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