DCN 6856

BRAC Commission

AUG 0 3 2005

Received

July 30, 2005

Jeremy L. Martin
225 Floyd Golden Cir
Portales NM 88130

Brigadier General Sue E. Turner
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

Dear General Turner,

Undoubtedly, you have received countless letters from residents of the Clovis and Portales communities in our efforts to "Keep Cannon". I ask that you please read one more:

I was stationed at Cannon as a military personnel officer from 1992 – 1995. We found the Clovis/Portales area so welcoming that we chose to purchase a house in Portales—the lower cost of living in this area made that a wise move. Subsequently, we left Portales for other military assignments; however, we kept our house because we intended to return here someday. I have just completed an assignment in Dayton, Ohio as an Air Force ROTC instructor and we have completed our move back to our home in Portales. My wife and I have been employed as schoolteachers for Clovis Municipal Schools and we are excited about serving the children of this military community. It should be noted that numerous military personnel have chosen to make Clovis or Portales their permanent homes.

MILITARY VALUE OF CANNON AFB

I will give you my viewpoint on the military value of keeping Cannon AFB:

- When I served here from 92-95, Cannon was in the process of expanding to accommodate a total of over 5000 military members due to the consolidation of all F-111s to Cannon. Cannon and the local communities made this happen and welcomed the new families.
- Upon the retirement of the F-111s, Cannon quickly and easily converted to an F-16 base and has also hosted the Singaporean Air Force. The Clovis and Portales communities have welcomed the Singaporeans with open arms.
- There are absolutely no encroachment issues at Cannon. The city of Clovis is growing to the north. The area between the base and Clovis is simply not a growth area. Pilots at Cannon have superior access to the skies. Our weather is superb—rarely is there a day when the pilots can't fly. Why close Cannon and send the jets and pilots to a base where their ability to fly and train will be much more limited than at Cannon? In the interest of national defense—keeping our pilots trained and ready—Cannon should be retained.
- Cannon's aircraft and trained pilots and other personnel have been paramount to national defense, having deployed around the globe to hot spots almost non-stop from Persian Gulf War I to the present conflicts. Yes, they could have deployed from

anywhere, yet I contend that the superior training received at Cannon is what makes Cannon's assets a supreme warfighting instrument for our nation.

- Cannon's facilities are modern and first-rate—you saw this yourself when you visited.
- The proximity to Melrose Bomb Range and its usage rate is something that DoD is overlooking, for whatever reason. I contend that Cannon and Melrose Range are an integral team in National Defense. We can't have one without the other, without weakening our training programs.
- Joint Training Opportunities: Cannon has long participated in, and even hosted, "ROVING SANDS" every year that I can remember. If that is not the finest example of the joint training capabilities available here, then I'm at a loss as to what DoD is looking for. As long as I can remember, Cannon has had numerous "Exchange" officers with the Navy and Marine Corps as well as "Exchange" pilots from our Allies.
- We love the sound of jet aircraft here—it is the sound of freedom, and we like being part of that. This is an intensely patriotic community who loves its base and embraces the military members, single and families, who get stationed here. It is that sense of community that made this an easy decision to make Portales our home.

POTENTIAL "RECEIVER" ROLES FOR CANNON AFB:

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- Cannon can accommodate another aircraft wing—whether that is the A-10, F-22, or F-35, the infrastructure exists to allow the base to expand to meet this military need. This makes military sense for these reasons:
    - All the reasons listed above for climate, available airspace, and maximum training opportunities
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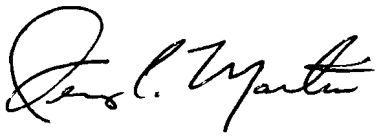

Jeremy L. Martin
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- Resident of Portales

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225 Floyd Golden Cir
Portales NM 88130

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

Dear Admiral Gehman,

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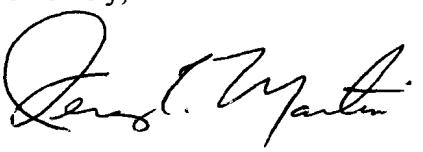

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- Resident of Portales

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225 Floyd Golden Cir
Portales NM 88130

The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Honorable Skinner,

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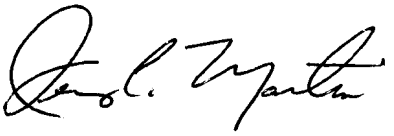

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225 Floyd Golden Cir
Portales NM 88130

General Lloyd W. Newton
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

Dear General Newton,

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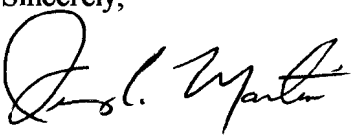

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General James T. Hill
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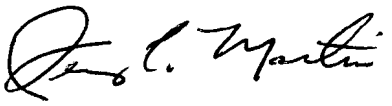
    - Clovis/Portales has a much lower cost of living than most other areas. The military will save countless dollars on BAH by increasing the military presence at Cannon. Housing is readily available and I can assure you that more houses and apartments will be built if a decision is made to make Cannon a receiver base.

- Cannon can host a training wing for any air force of our Allies. Hosting the Singaporeans was a huge success and everyone is sorry to see them leave. Bring in any other Allied air force to take advantage of Cannon's superior training space—the Clovis/Portales communities will welcome the Allies with open arms.

My final thought to leave you with is that I strongly disagree with any comments about Cannon's "isolation". Cannon is not a hardship tour for anyone. An assignment to Cannon is an opportunity for airmen and their families to be part of a wholesome, hard-working farming, ranching, and dairy community. Please do not be influenced by "whining" young airmen or spouses that there is "nothing to do" here. There is plenty of shopping and dining as well as wholesome recreation right here in Clovis and Portales without having to make the 2-hour drive to Lubbock.

I implore you to reject the flawed recommendations of the Department of Defense. I can only trust that you have done your own research and will independently make your decision in the interest of national defense. Thank you for your dedicated service on the BRAC Commission.

Sincerely,



Jeremy L. Martin
- Former USAF officer stationed at Cannon
- School Teacher, Clovis Municipal Schools
- Resident of Portales

BRAC Commission

AUG 2 4 2005

Received

Dear James V. Hansen,

I would like to add further input on the issue to close Cannon. Because I am a citizen to New Mexico and to Curry County I fill it is my responsibility to help save Cannon the best way I can. I have written letters in the past but everyone is still encouraging the letter writing campaigns and even sending emails concerning the issue. Before, I wrote about how closing the base would effect things in my community and even those of which relate to Cannon itself. Furthermore, watching the news lately has not been what most of us want to hear. As the deadlines draw near so does our chances to keep our beloved base. It seems closing Cannon is still strong in the hearts of those who control our defense in America. Which means why close a base to build another one? Why close a base that has no encroachments? Why close a base that has so much room to grow? And why close a base without thoroughly inspecting it in the first place? Forgive me if I impede but after all Clovis and the surroundings areas have done to keep Cannon all efforts seem to be for nothing. If Cannon does close then it is evident that the personnel stationed here will be sent to other places. Also, the same applies to the personnel of other base closures. Is this going to crowd the bases that are not being closed? So the question is what does the Department of Defense have in store for those people. I believe there is good reason to close a base that is below standards, or even because of good relevant reasons. Cannon does not seem like to type of base to close for such reasons so I would like to stress as long as what ever happens is done truthfully and with the best intentions, then we as Americans have to trust our Defense is working for its people.

Sincerely,

Deanne Dickson

BRAC Commission

AUG 04 2005

Received

Dear Sue Ellen Turner:

First off I would like to ask you a question, have you ever felt compelled to write about something that means so much to you? To stop and think about a simple question like this one may not seem very important. If you consider the amount of support and team work the people of Eastern New Mexico and West Texas have contributed to this cause it might help. Now think about how many other communities big or small that have created an entire campaign to save their very own base. Consider the love and devotion you and I have to our brothers and sisters in arms. Think about the kind of bonds created with these military personnel, the friendships made because of how close some of us are to these people. Yes, it is safe to say these kinds of relationships form more easily because of our smaller community. Through time Cannon and the surrounding areas have grown together, depended on each other, and so much more. For reasons you already know Cannon should not be closed! The real reason I am writing is in the smallest of hope that some of these things I am writing will make you stop and think. Sometimes in life things are better understood in someone else's shoes. So again before a decision is made can you at the end of the day say, "I did everything I could to help save Cannon Air Force Base and those people in the surrounding areas"! If this is true then I hope with deepest regard you can help, because no matter how many letters you read or throw away the ball is in your court, and your teammates are counting on you! We all are counting on you to do what is right.

Sincerely,

Keith Dickson

Dear Sue Ellen Turner,

BRAC Commission

AUG 0 4 2005

Received

I would like to add further input on the issue to close Cannon. Because I am a citizen to New Mexico and to Curry County I fill it is my responsibility to help save Cannon the best way I can. I have written letters in the past but everyone is still encouraging the letter writing campaigns and even sending emails concerning the issue. Before, I wrote about how closing the base would effect things in my community and even those of which relate to Cannon itself. Furthermore, watching the news lately has not been what most of us want to hear. As the deadlines draw near so does our chances to keep our beloved base. It seems closing Cannon is still strong in the hearts of those who control our defense in America. Which means why close a base to build another one? Why close a base that has no encroachments? Why close a base that has so much room to grow? And why close a base without thoroughly inspecting it in the first place? Forgive me if I impede but after all Clovis and the surroundings areas have done to keep Cannon all efforts seem to be for nothing. If Cannon does close then it is evident that the personnel stationed here will be sent to other places. Also, the same applies to the personnel of other base closures. Is this going to crowd the bases that are not being closed? So the question is what does the Department of Defense have in store for those people. I believe there is good reason to close a base that is below standards, or even because of good relevant reasons. Cannon does not seem like to type of base to close for such reasons so I would like to stress as long as what ever happens is done truthfully and with the best intentions, then we as Americans have to trust our Defense is working for its people.

Sincerely,

Deanne Dickson