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DCN: 758



May 18, 2005

Dear BRAC Commission,

My name is Virginia Rice and I am writing this letter on behalf of my family and myself concerning the possible closure of Cannon Air Force Base. My family and I have lived here in Clovis since 1994 when we got stationed here at Cannon. My husband was in the Air Force from 1976 to 1996. After my husband retired in 1996 we had the opportunity to move away from here but, we chose to stay because of a number of reasons. I work as a pre-school teacher at Cannon's Child Development Center. I have worked there all the eleven years we have been here. I love teaching and making a difference in the lives of the families I serve. When my husband Dale retired in 1996 he became a Clovis Police Officer and he has continued to serve this wonderful community and it's residents ever since. Our only child Melissa will be graduating with honors from Clovis High School on May 21<sup>st</sup> and she will be attending Eastern New Mexico University in the fall. This is our home and we do not want to leave. If Cannon closes we may have to pack up and go somewhere else because I cannot find a job that pays as well as my job at Cannon does. We do not want to leave our daughter as she goes out on her own; we want to be here just in case she needs us. We have owned a home here since Dale retired from the air force and we enjoy living in a small town. Our military retirement benefits are in jeopardy if Cannon closes and that wouldn't be a good situation. No, I don't totally know all the facts about why Cannon is on the BRAC list but, I do know there are some good reasons that it should be taken off of the list. We have at Cannon a wonderful missile range, no land lock around the base, the capability of supersonic flight, (which was to be approved this summer), and much, much more. Cannon has the future capability to host new air force aircraft as well as continue to have the F-16's here. Why not? We have a perfect location, good weather, total local community support, and wonderful people. If this is all in vain please know that we here in Eastern New Mexico love our military and we will continue to support our troops where ever we are. Please, please keep Cannon Air Force Base! It is AMERICA'S GO TO WING!!

Sincerely,

The Rice Family  
Virginia, Dale and Melissa

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