

AUG 04 2005

Dear Samuel Knox Skinner:

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

August 1, 2005

Debra J. Martin
225 Floyd Golden Cir
Portales NM 88130

BRAC Commission

AUG 04 2005

received

The Honorable James H. Bilbray
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Honorable Bilbray,

I'm a resident of Portales, New Mexico and a junior high math teacher in Clovis, New Mexico. I was a "military spouse" when we first moved to this area when my husband was an active duty Air Force officer stationed at Cannon AFB from 1992-95. I won't dwell on the military value of Cannon—I think it speaks for itself. I'm writing this letter to give you the "military spouse" perspective of being assigned to Cannon AFB in my hope that you will better understand the opportunities waiting military families assigned here. I hope you will choose to "Keep Cannon".

I've heard some other military wives and some single young airmen and officers claim that Cannon is an "isolated military post." Obviously, these people have not been assigned overseas, or they would truly understand being "isolated". I must admit, when I first arrived here, the area seemed austere and remote. However, we soon became enamored by what Portales had to offer and we chose to purchase a house here. My family and I quickly grew to love Portales—the Warm Heart of the Sunbelt. Did you get a chance to watch the sunset when you came to visit?—it's breathtaking.

For those stationed at Cannon who feel isolated, I think I know why. They haven't made an effort to be a part of the community. In all likelihood, these people have never stepped foot into a local church in Portales or Clovis. If they had, they would have experienced people bending over backwards to make them feel warm and comfortable, and a valuable member of this wholesome community.

For those who claim there is nothing to do here, I offer my strongest disagreement. Both my husband and I have earned our credentials as schoolteachers through Eastern New Mexico University, about two blocks from our house. We are now both employed as schoolteachers in Clovis and take pride in helping educate military children (we've had four of our own). Our oldest son, now an Air Force second lieutenant, and his wife, are both graduates of ENMU.

Are you aware that we have the New Mexico Lottery Scholarship program where a graduate of a New Mexico high school can get 7 semesters of tuition paid at any New Mexico public university? This is available to all military families stationed at Cannon. Additionally, both ENMU and Clovis Community College offer in-state tuition for military members and dependents, regardless of state of residency. ENMU tuition is very affordable and hard to beat for a four-year university. CCC has expanded in the past 10 years and offers numerous vocational programs as well as general academic programs. Other educational opportunities in this area include Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Wayland Baptist University.

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Shopping and dining opportunities are plentiful in both Clovis and Portales. REALLY!!! We rarely feel like we need to drive to Lubbock or Amarillo for shopping—but, for a specialty item, (like backpacking equipment), Lubbock is only 2 hours away.

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BOTTOM LINE: Please do not believe the DoD or bored housewives who say that Cannon is "too isolated" and that there is nothing to do here. I am proud to claim Portales, New Mexico as my home and the place to raise my family.

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Thank you for your dedicated service on the BRAC Commission.

Sincerely,



Debra J. Martin

- Former Cannon AFB Military Spouse
- School Teacher, Clovis Municipal Schools
- Resident of Portales

August 1, 2005

Debra J. Martin
225 Floyd Golden Cir
Portales NM 88130

BRAC Commission

AUG 04 2005

received

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

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- School Teacher, Clovis Municipal Schools
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August 1, 2005

Debra J. Martin
225 Floyd Golden Cir
Portales NM 88130

BRAC Commission

AUG 04 2005

received

The Honorable James V. Hansen
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

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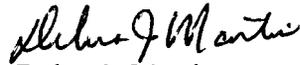
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- Resident of Portales

August 1, 2005

BRAC Commission

Debra J. Martin
225 Floyd Golden Cir
Portales NM 88130

AUG 04 2005

Received

General James T. Hill
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

Dear General Hill,

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- Resident of Portales

August 1, 2005

Debra J. Martin
225 Floyd Golden Cir
Portales NM 88130

BRAC Commission

AUG 14 2005

received

The Honorable Philip Coyle
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Honorable Coyle,

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August 1, 2005

Debra J. Martin
225 Floyd Golden Cir
Portales NM 88130

BRAC Commission

AUG 04 2005

receiver

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

Dear General Newton,

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Sincerely,



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- Former Cannon AFB Military Spouse
- School Teacher, Clovis Municipal Schools
- Resident of Portales

August 1, 2005

Debra J. Martin
225 Floyd Golden Cir
Portales NM 88130

BRAC Commission

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

AUG 04 2005

receiver

Dear Honorable Skinner,

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- School Teacher, Clovis Municipal Schools
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August 1, 2005

Debra J. Martin
225 Floyd Golden Cir
Portales NM 88130

BRAC Commission

AUG 04 2005

received

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

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August 1, 2005

Debra J. Martin
225 Floyd Golden Cir
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BRAC Commission

AUG 04 2005

Received

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

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