

BRAC Commission:
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA. 22202

BRAC Commission
Received
6/23/2005

Dear, *Honorable James V. Hanson,*

I am a housewife; I live in Portales, NM. I was a Sergeant in the United States Air Force from 1985 through 1991. I was at RAF Upper-Heyford, England and Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico. I met my husband while I was in the Air Force while I was stationed at Cannon Air Force Base. We now have a beautiful and wonderful daughter, (*Beth*) age 8 in our lives. I don't use the base anymore but I understand the importance of it. I worked on the flight controls of the F-111C, D, FB, & EF aircraft. It would be a great loss to those who can use the Base.

I know you have to put a lot of things into consideration, and I know you can not, so much look at my feelings and the others in the surrounding town. Also the economic impacts, there are so many things you can concenter, on is the encroachment issues which is one of BRAC's standards, we don't have **(NO)** ! Encroachment issues at Cannon Air Force Base, but many of the Air Force Bases that are slated to receive our F-16 have major encroachment issues such as Hill Air Force Base & Luke Air Force Base, which to mention the local communities don't even want the Air Force Bases in their communities. Cannon Air Force Base is slightly to the west of Clovis, and Clovis is currently growing to the north away from Cannon Air Force Base, which will cease if Cannon Air Force Base closes.

I have seen the building contractors cease building and have heard the Banks have stopped loans on all projects that are not already paid for by individuals. The contractors went home and the house sites untouched since. Remember that Clovis is growing away from Cannon Air Force Base, which leaves Cannon Air Force Base lots of room on the ground, also in the air Cannon Air Force Base has no other Airport to speak of to competing for air space.

Our community has done several things in the past to ensure this issue in the 1990's. Curry County and the State of New Mexico purchased air easements around Cannon Air Force Base for encroachment protection. Leaders in our community have worked with the New Mexico training range initiative to expand the flight capabilities of pilots at Cannon Air Force Base to include Super Sonic Flights at a lower altitude to accommodate modern tactical combat training requirements, while other communities are doing their best to push the military out. On different occasions our local community has purchased land and given it to Cannon Air Force Base for needs they had at the time.

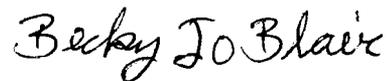
I know weather is a big factor with any aircraft. Our weather here is perfect for flying year round, and with Melrose bombing range minutes away off the end of the runway, the Cannon pilots have quick access to extensive training with little travel time, saving lots of fuel and money for the Military.

Being an ex-bomb base Cannon Air Force Base has lots of ramp space to accommodate expansion whether it to be new inventory or consideration of other inventory or even temporary inventory of aircraft involved in joint training exercises.

In closing I would like to mention, I am a native of California, I moved here because it is not crowded, is peaceful, so no stress. I love having Cannon Air Force Base hear. While I was stationed at Cannon Air Force Base I was told, the base was in a strategic possession, and was a crucial spot for deployment!

I would like to personally ask that you consider keeping Cannon Air Force Base New Mexico open, not only for the benefit of our community, but for the benefit and security of our Nation. We look forward to hosting the entire commission on June 24th, 2005, so you can see first hand the support Cannon Air Force Base receives from our community.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Jo Blair".

Becky Jo Blair

1918 Westview Diamond way
Portales, New Mexico. 88130
Home Phone # (505)-356-8053

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Sincerely;

Becky Jo Blair

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