

DEAR BRIGADIER GENERAL SUE
E. TURNER, I AM WRITING
THIS IN REGARD TO THE CLOSURE
OF CANNON AFB, NM. I AM
A RETIRED USAF MEMBER AND
HAVE WANTED TO LIVE THE REST OF
MY LIFE IN CLOVIS, NM. IF THE
BASE CLOSES, ME AND MY FAMILY,
AS WELL AS SEVERAL OTHER
RETIREES WILL BE FORCED TO
RELOCATE IN ORDER TO RECEIVE OUR
BENEFITS. THIS ALONG WITH THE
LOSS OF SEVERAL THOUSANDS OF JOBS
CATASTROPHIC TO CLOVIS AND THE SURR-
ROUNDING AREA.

I PLEA WITH YOU TO REMOVE
CANNON AFB FROM THE BRAC LIST.

REWARDS,

BOB LAHVE

Bob LaHve

RECEIVED
06172005

6/11/05

Bill D. Jones
203 Bent Tree Rd.
Roswell, New Mexico 88201

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi,

I wish to take the opportunity to express my support for keeping Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico open.

I believe Cannon offers unique attributes the Commission may need be fully apprised of. These include an abundance of air space and lack of encroachment, excellent year-round flying weather, the airspace and lack of restriction to various "off-gate" battle patterns and the close proximity of a bombing range.

The closing of the base will have a major economic impact of Clovis and Portales which is comprised of high minority populations as well as significant poverty levels.

Please reconsider all of the facts

More than 400 Bella Vista students, faculty and volunteers
took part in a community cleanup effort

Thursday in honor of
Cesar Chavez Day

etc.

A GRAPHIC LOOK AT PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

Designed by Rick White • Photos by Eric Kluth

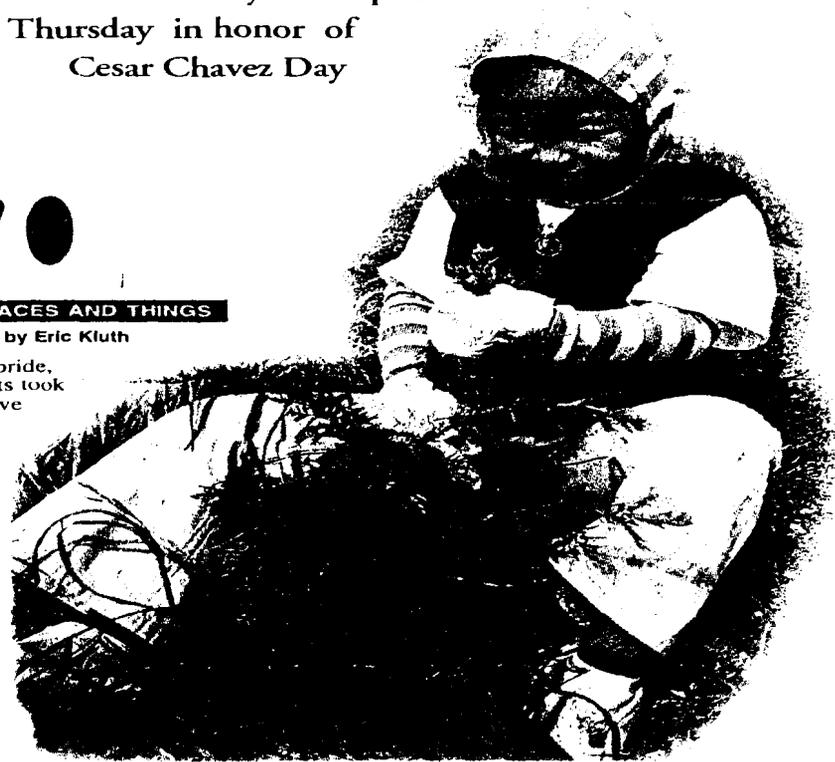
Armed with trash bags and school pride, more than 300 Bella Vista students took to the streets Thursday in a massive cleanup effort in honor of Cesar Chavez Day.

Working side-by-side with another 100 faculty members and community volunteers, the pint-size student army pulled weeds and picked up trash with a fervor usually reserved for recess.

Meanwhile, the adults trimmed trees and whacked weeds in an effort to spruce up the community surrounding the school. More than 5 tons of trash and debris were collected and hauled to the city landfill, city officials said.

"He did so much for his community and we just wanted to do something like he would," said Phillip Martinez, who was part of Ann Corsey's sixth-grade class that came up with the idea to honor the Mexican American labor activist. Chavez was born March 31, 1923.

"I think it looks pretty good right now," Martinez said. "Hopefully people will see how good it looks and take a little pride and keep it this way."



▲ First-grader Kiana Nathavong struggles with a weed in a field behind St. John Baptist Church on Gila Street.



(1927-1993)

Cesar Chavez was a Mexican American labor activist and leader of the United Farm Workers. During the 20th century he was a leading voice for migrant farm workers. His tireless leadership focused national attention on poor working conditions, which eventually led to change.

Source: Library of Congress

By the numbers

5.4

Tons of trash and debris collected and hauled to the landfill

36

Personnel from Cannon Air Force Base who took part in the cleanup effort

24

Students in Ann Corsey's sixth-grade class treated to a pizza party by school board members Mark Lansford and Lola Bryant for their role in kick-starting the project

60

Percent of Bella Vista's 320 students who are Hispanic



▲ First-grader Destiney Cavallero picks up trash on Thursday in an alley at the north end of Chama Street as part of a community service project in honor of Cesar Chavez Day.



◀ Fourth-graders Sarah Ratigan, right, and Dahlia Tarango battled wind, cold and a light rain while collecting trash on Charlotte Street.

Editor's note: Etc. is a weekly series. If you have subject ideas, contact CNJ Managing Editor Rick White at 763-6991 or by e-mail at: rick_white@link.freedom.com

16 June 2005

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

Bill F. Bullion
5 Fox Hollow
Edwardsville, IL 62025
6/23/2005

**BRAC Commission
Received**

Dear Mr. Bilbray:

First, it is an honor and a privilege to write to you. I am using this letter to voice my concerns over the BRAC closure list, specifically Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis, New Mexico. As a former resident of Clovis, Navy veteran – Viet Nam 68-69, and graduate of Eastern New Mexico University in Portales I feel that the BRAC is making a critical mistake in this proposed closure action.

The surrounding area residents, Cities, Counties and State Governments of New Mexico and Texas are extremely concerned about the economic effects and outfall of the proposed closure. I share their concerns for the future of the area and I have a strong concern of the loss of Cannon to our military machine. Cannon and its future should be considered very strategic to our military and in its long range planning.

If Cannon is closed, our military will lose an extremely well situated facility that cannot be easily replaced, economically or physically. Cannon has the capability, flexibility and open air space to serve all branches of our military as a support base and training facility.

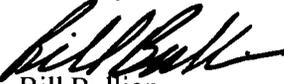
Training is critical to the readiness of all military programs. Training promotes efficiencies, eliminates mistakes, saves money and most important of all – it saves lives. Our fighter pilots must continue to receive the best training available and a key factor to that is having a world class training facility. No other military base has immediate access to unencumbered air spaces such as the Melrose Bombing Range and the New Mexico Training Range that is being implemented, both immediately adjacent and accessible to Cannon year round. Both ranges are well suited to support aircraft of any type or service branch; Air Force, Navy, Marines or Army.

Much of the air space and easements around Cannon were purchased and given to the Government by Clovis in its ongoing support of Cannon Air Force Base.

I urge you and your colleagues to review and re-consider the actions set forth by the BRAC. Please - Support our Troops - Keep Cannon. I wish you and your team well on the upcoming visit to Cannon Air Force Base and the Clovis area.

I would be glad to discuss this issue with you or anyone on the BRAC Commission; I can be contacted at (618) 692-3819 or at my office (314) 335-4357. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Bill Bullion

16 June 2005

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

Bill F. Bullion
5 Fox Hollow
Edwardsville, IL 62025

BRAC Commission
Received
6/23/2005

Dear Mr. Turner:

First, it is an honor and a privilege to write to you. I am using this letter to voice my concerns over the BRAC closure list, specifically Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis, New Mexico. As a former resident of Clovis, Navy veteran – Viet Nam 68-69, and graduate of Eastern New Mexico University in Portales I feel that the BRAC is making a critical mistake in this proposed closure action.

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Sincerely,


Bill Bullion



**BRAC Commission
Received**
6/23/2005

June 20, 2005

BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commission Members,

During my twenty-plus years in the military, I was often reminded of the benefits that were available to retired personnel. This prompted me to make the military a career.

However, I've come to find that promises made in Washington are not cast in concrete. No need to remind you of the lifetime medical benefit that was taken away and restored only after a concerned group took the case to court.

Now, with the possible closure of Cannon AFB I find myself in a similar situation. This time I'm threatened with the removal of my base privileges as a retiree. Facilities like the commissary, BX, barber shop, service station and the physical fitness center are things that retirees like myself depend on to survive. The retirement check I receive is hardly enough for me to survive on the civilian economy, i.e., haircuts at the base are priced considerably lower than in Clovis as are commissary prices compared to the civilian market. Yes, Cannon AFB was a major factor when I relocated here eleven years ago.

If the base does close, it will take those benefits away from me unless I choose to travel to Holloman AFB, which is 225 miles from here. I, and others like me are not in a position to relocate unless the government cares to buy our houses and pay for moving expenses.

At the present time there is something of a growth pattern here in Clovis with new homes being built on a greater scale than in years past. Sure, there is a new cheese plant being built, but the 200+ jobs that will be available there will likely go to current residents. Without Cannon AFB, Clovis will really take it on the chin because businesses that cater to the military will be forced to close.

A good example: my neighbor is on active duty at Cannon. He bought this house about two months ago. If he gets transferred, he will be one of many with homes to sell and no one to buy them. Has anyone on the BRAC Commission tried selling a home in a ghost town?

Cannon's operational status can only get better, not worse. We have some of the finest flying weather in the nation, not to mention the new construction that has taken place. Within the past two years a new control tower was erected at a cost of millions of dollars in addition to some less costly projects. Should the base be closed, I would consider it a waste of my tax dollars.

With this much said, I wish to implore the Commission to reconsider the closure of Cannon Air Force Base. It would make a lot of people a lot happier.

Sincerely,

BURDETTE R. THEOPHILUS
1727 GIDDING STREET
CLOVIS, NM 88101

e-mail: Bernie-t@juno.com

6/19/2005



BRAC Commission
RECEIVED
0496

6/23/2005

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

RE: Cannon Air Force Base, Clovis, NM

I. Thesis

There are intangible but real, benefits to the Nation and to the US Air Force in keeping Cannon AFB active.

II. My Qualifications

Prior to retirement as a Facilities Management Engineer for General Electric in Moorestown, NJ – the manufacturing site of the US Navy Aegis Combat System -- I was also a part-time instructor in the Monmouth University MBA Program. I retired from GE in 1991, moved to New Mexico and have been a part-time instructor for Northern New Mexico Community College, and Clovis Community College. I am presently a part-time instructor for Wayland Baptist University in Business Administration subjects. I have a BSEE degree from Iowa State; an MBA from Monmouth University; a MS-MKTG, plus a Post-Masters in Strategic Management – both from Drexel University. My professional engineering career was in Facilities Management for US Steel, Strick Trailer, Stauffer Chemical, Nassau Chemical, Marshall Maintenance, RCA, and GE.

III. My Observations

Although I have neither the credentials, nor the resources, to submit a rigorous statistical analysis, I do feel qualified to offer these observations based upon my interactions with both the commissioned and the non-commissioned officers in the courses that I have taught for Clovis Community College and Wayland Baptist University.

There are three major factors involved at CAFB: first, the geographical location; second, the community of Clovis; and third, the internal culture of the Base.

These three factors, combined, have a 'Synergy' that produces competent, seasoned and mature leaders for the US Air Force. For example, since 1986 (I don't have data for prior times) approximately 80% of the Wing Commanders arriving at CAFB as Colonels (O6) have gone to their next

BURDETTE R. THEOPHILUS

6/19/2005

Page #2

duty station as Brig. Generals (07.) Also, many of those in the Company and Field Grade Commissioned Officer categories have received significant promotions after leaving CAFB

I have only sketchy anecdotal information about the non-commissioned ~~6/23/05~~ however, what I have heard is parallel to the commissioned officer's experiences. Also, I do know that CAFB personnel frequently receive 'Remote PCS's' to locations requiring competent and reliable people.

Also, CAFB has received (Earned?) a disproportionate (High!) number of numbered Air Force, Air Combat Command, and USAF awards.

IV. Benefits to Nation and the USAF

It seems to me that CAFB provided a unique benefit to the Nation and to the US Air Force – 'seasoning' people to make competent and timely decisions. It is well known in Decision Making that Analysis (the 'number-crunching') only serves to reduce the 'Range of Uncertainty.' Decision Making also requires the skill of Assessment – to evaluate the impacts of intangible factors as well as the tangible factors indicated by the analysis. I suggest that the 'Synergy' at CAFB enhances this skill to the benefit of the Nation and to the Air Force. Cannon AFB might be considered to be a 'Post post-graduate school.'

V. Conclusion

Although the economic and social benefits of keeping CAFB active are of importance, the most valuable benefit would be preparing military leaders to cope with those adversities which can only be survived by military action.

Sincerely,


Burdette R. Theophilus

Cc: Govenor Bill Richardson

Dear BRAC Commissioners,



RECEIVED BRAC Commission

Received

6/23/2005

I am writing you today to tell you my personal reasons why Cannon ~~should~~ should remain open.

My husband is retired Air Force and we remained in the area of Cannon because our children were still young in 1978 when my husband finished his Air Force career. The school system is excellent and our three children have gone on to excel in everything they have planned on doing.

Our oldest spent 14 years in the Navy and is in the Reserves to finish his 20 years. He is an Aeronautical Engineer still working near his last assignment at Paxtextent River . Within an hour of Washington D.C.

Our middle child, a son, spent some time in the Army. So as you can see we are a military oriented family. I guess it had something to do with being around Cannon and having a lot of friends in the schools here in Clovis, NM whose families were also connected to the base. Being in a military town and family makes for very close bounds.

The people here in Clovis, NM were always helpful to the military and families from Cannon. Now we are part of that community and if we were to lose Cannon it would be a devastating blow to all of our friends.

The weather here is great, at least I would say 95% of the time which makes the military mission so much easier, I believe Cannon is a great deterrent to hostile sources here and abroad.

A lot of my friends who are handicapped, like I am, work at the base and if it were to close they would lose their good jobs. The community would help them but employment through ENMRSH, that has the contracts at the Dining Hall, Commissary and the Switchboard are much better paying jobs.

I would appreciate it if you would think about this a lot more and recheck your findings and not recommend Cannon for Closing.

Sincerely,

Sherwyne A. Aragon

Sherwyne A. Aragon

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



Ruthie Hefner, Ph.D.

**BRAC Commission
Received**

6/23/2005

P.O. Box 41
Melrose, NM 88124

Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington VA 22202

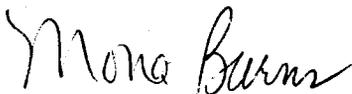
Dear Admiral Gehman,

I am writing in response to the announcement that Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico is on the list to potentially be closed. The following factors are important to consider about why Cannon should be removed from the potential closing list.

- Consider the economic impact of Clovis and the surrounding communities, including Amarillo and Lubbock, would be affected tremendously.
- The consequence of loss of resources to thousands of retired military families that live in Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, and West Texas would be devastating. These people rely on Cannon for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close to serve the retired military.
- Cannon Air Force Base is a top notch facility with plenty of space for expansion and is an approved base for super sonic flight. The abundance of air space and lack of encroachment issues provide safe and realistic training scenarios for pilots.
- The relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and the surrounding cities, Clovis, Portales, and many West Texas cities, is unlike any other installation in the country.

In summary, the Clovis and surround communities have reached out and supported the base like no other community financially, morally, spiritually, and above all, consistently over the past fifty years. I know that you are faced with a difficult assignment, but please consider the points listed above and remove Cannon Air Force Base from the potential closing list under consideration.

Respectfully,



Mona Burns



Terry Blaschke
2221 Fairway Terrace
Clovis, NM 88101

June 14, 2005

BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico

Honorable Commissioner Adm. Harold W. Gehman, Jr.:

Thank you in advance for taking a few minutes to read this letter. I realize during the BRAC process you will be hard pressed with your time so I will attempt to keep it short. My understanding is that the key element in the determination of keeping, closing or realigning a base is "military value". I also realize that "military value" must include future considerations, some of which cannot be disclosed to the public. In reviewing the criteria by which each base is reviewed, it appears that Cannon meets all criteria, therefore, rather than rehash the criteria I present the following for your consideration.

My son is a senior at Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee where he is a Political Communications Major. Being home for summer break when the BRAC report came out in mid-May and prior to any review of the recommendations in the report, I asked him hypothetically of course, if he was Secretary of Defense, what his primary concerns for America would be. He said "the borders". I asked further, what concerns he had about American borders and his reply centered around terrorism. So I asked for further explanation as to what he would do to protect the borders. To which he replied that his idea would be to build up the military presence near those areas that may be terrorist targets in an attempt to deter terrorism (due to the show of strength) and response time. Assuming some of those ideas may have been a part of discussions concerning the BRAC recommendations I then asked him to consider the build up of the American military presence in Hawaii during World War II and what happened as a result. Is it possible that the closing of Cannon and bases in South Dakota and Alaska along with the buildup of bases in more densely populated areas may actually play into the hands of Americas enemies? In event of attack, would it not be militarily advantageous to have response teams in place away from intended points of attack where the attackers cannot create substantial civilian and military casualties at the same time? Does history repeat itself? What can we do to learn from it and make choices to avoid the same mistakes?

BRAC Commission

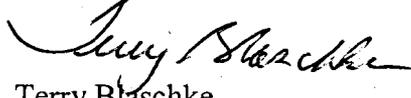
RECEIVED

6/23/2005

Secondarily, we are all familiar with remote controlled airplanes. How often do people with remote controlled aircraft go to densely populated areas that are full of buildings and other obstacles (encroachments) in order to practice flying the planes? Don't we typically see these people take the planes to parks or recreation areas that have plenty of wide open space with few obstacles where they can practice maneuvers unhindered? If the military is going to more "pilot less" aircraft, what better environment to fly in than the wide open spaces afforded Cannon Air Force Base?

So many more thoughts and questions, but I promised to keep it brief. Thank you again for your valuable time.

Sincerely,



Terry Blaschke

cc:

Commission Chairman Anthony Principi
Commissioner James Bilbrary
Commissioner Philip Coyle
Commissioner Adm. Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
Commissioner Rep. James V. Hansen
Commissioner Gen. James Hill
Commissioner Gen. Lloyd "Fig" Newton
Commissioner Samuel K. Skinner
President George W. Bush
Governor Bill Richardson
Senator Pete V. Domenici
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Rep. Tom Udall



RECEIVED
BRAC Commission
Received

6/23/2005

Terry Blaschke
2221 Fairway Terrace
Clovis, NM 88101

June 14, 2005

BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico

Honorable Commissioner Samuel K. Skinner:

Thank you in advance for taking a few minutes to read this letter. I realize during the BRAC process you will be hard pressed with your time so I will attempt to keep it short. My understanding is that the key element in the determination of keeping, closing or realigning a base is "military value". I also realize that "military value" must include future considerations, some of which cannot be disclosed to the public. In reviewing the criteria by which each base is reviewed, it appears that Cannon meets all criteria, therefore, rather than rehash the criteria I present the following for your consideration.

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Terry Blaschke

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- Commissioner B.G. Sue Ellen Turner
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Terry Blaschke
2221 Fairway Terrace
Clovis, NM 88101

June 14, 2005

BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico

Honorable Commissioner Gen. Lloyd "Fig" Newton:

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Terry Blaschke

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Terry Blaschke
2221 Fairway Terrace
Clovis, NM 88101

June 14, 2005

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Arlington, VA 22202

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Honorable Commissioner Rep. James V. Hansen:

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My son is a senior at Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee where he is a Political Communications Major. Being home for summer break when the BRAC report came out in mid-May and prior to any review of the recommendations in the report, I asked him hypothetically of course, if he was Secretary of Defense, what his primary concerns for America would be. He said "the borders". I asked further, what concerns he had about American borders and his reply centered around terrorism. So I asked for further explanation as to what he would do to protect the borders. To which he replied that his idea would be to build up the military presence near those areas that may be terrorist targets in an attempt to deter terrorism (due to the show of strength) and response time. Assuming some of those ideas may have been a part of discussions concerning the BRAC recommendations I then asked him to consider the build up of the American military presence in Hawaii during World War II and what happened as a result. Is it possible that the closing of Cannon and bases in South Dakota and Alaska along with the buildup of bases in more densely populated areas may actually play into the hands of Americas enemies? In event of attack, would it not be militarily advantageous to have response teams in place away from intended points of attack where the attackers cannot create substantial civilian and military casualties at the same time? Does history repeat itself? What can we do to learn from it and make choices to avoid the same mistakes?

BRAC Commission

RECEIVED

6/23/2005

Secondarily, we are all familiar with remote controlled airplanes. How often do people with remote controlled aircraft go to densely populated areas that are full of buildings and other obstacles (encroachments) in order to practice flying the planes? Don't we typically see these people take the planes to parks or recreation areas that have plenty of wide open space with few obstacles where they can practice maneuvers unhindered? If the military is going to more "pilot less" aircraft, what better environment to fly in than the wide open spaces afforded Cannon Air Force Base?

So many more thoughts and questions, but I promised to keep it brief. Thank you again for your valuable time.

Sincerely,



Terry Blaschke

cc:

Commission Chairman Anthony Principi
Commissioner James Bilbrary
Commissioner Philip Coyle
Commissioner Adm. Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
Commissioner Gen. James Hill
Commissioner Gen. Lloyd "Fig" Newton
Commissioner Samuel K. Skinner
Commissioner B.G. Sue Ellen Turner
President George W. Bush
Governor Bill Richardson
Senator Pete V. Domenici
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Rep. Tom Udall



RECEIVED

BRAC Commission

Received

6/23/2005

Terry Blaschke
2221 Fairway Terrace
Clovis, NM 88101

June 14, 2005

BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico

Honorable Commissioner B.G. Sue Ellen Turner:

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BRAC Commission

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6/28/2005

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**BRAC Commission
Received**

6/23/2005

Terry Blaschke
2221 Fairway Terrace
Clovis, NM 88101

June 14, 2005

BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

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BRAC Commission

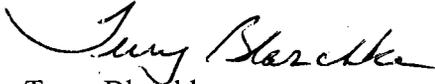
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Rep. Tom Udall

Lesli and Greg Duffield
1528 Lexington Rd
Clovis, NM 88101
505-763-6241



June 15, 2005

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

Dear Commissioner Hansen:

Although the closure of Cannon would negatively impact our community and our personal investment here, being raised as "Air Force Brats" taught us that personal sacrifice is sometimes necessary to protect our freedom. Unlike many Americans our motivations are not always for personal or political gain. Since Cannon AFB does not meet the criteria outlined for base closures and its attributes are so valuable, we find it hard to understand how this sacrifice will have a positive impact on our military readiness.

Although I would like to thank your commission for stimulating our interest in learning more about Cannon, the more we learn the more confused over your decision we become. It is hard to understand how closing a fighter wing is a good decision given recent global events and threats to our Nation on our home turf. How is it that Cannon's abundant airspace, free of encroachments and impending Supersonic training capability is not valuable to our National defense? In addition to the airspace, the weather in Eastern New Mexico allows for virtually year round flying and training capability. With the Melrose bombing-range located so closely to Cannon, it seems to be the ideal location for realistic training of our military pilots. Although Cannon is an Air Force base, it has capacity for expansion facilitating joint military training and operations. While valuable on their own, each of these factors combine, to create an invaluable military asset. At this point, the fact that the cost is minimal seems to be the only positive aspect of the closure.

Finally, my husband and I came to Clovis as military brats, without a real choice. As adults we decided to settle here, open our businesses, and raise our family, because this is a great community. From our military backgrounds, we both understood how it felt to live in places where the military were unwanted. Not only does ~~this community~~ support our military, they have done so for many years in ways that go beyond the normal "hoopla" of support. It gave us even more pride in this community to learn that we acquired and GAVE to the military the airspace with no encroachments, land for additional housing, and land for improvement and expansion. Yes, GAVE to the military! Was this overwhelming support of our Armed Forces forgotten or overlooked?

Since the facts support keeping Cannon, we are left to wonder how this recommendation can possibly be justified. Did you look at the same facts? Is the motivation for this recommendation truly to protect our freedom for future generations? We ask that you re-examine the facts and make sure your individual decision is made for the right reasons.

Sincerely,


Lesli and Greg Duffield



BRAC Commission

Received

6/23/2005

Lesli and Greg Duffield
1528 Lexington Rd
Clovis, NM 88101
505-763-6241

June 15, 2005

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

Dear Commissioner Coyle:

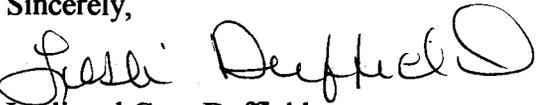
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Sincerely,


Lesli and Greg Duffield



6/22/2005

Date: June 10, 2005

To: BRAC Committee

From: Cherrie Hayden
2104 Northglen
Clovis, NM 88101

I have been a resident of Clovis, New Mexico for my whole life. I went to college at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, NM. As far back as I can remember, Cannon Air Force Base has always been a part of our community.

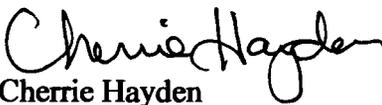
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Our town is very dependent on the people and the economy we receive from those stationed at CAFB as those stationed at the base are also dependent on the people of Clovis. I feel that we are actually a perfect fit for each other!

Besides obvious personal reasons, I can't imagine Cannon being closed since they are always the first to be deployed when the U.S. is involved in any fighting overseas! Cannon has enormous air space, ideal flying weather, no encroachments, an excellent bombing range, and supersonic air space! Even if someday the air force does away with the F16s, other aircraft can be brought in. There is plenty of room to expand! Cannon has always been a very important defender of our freedom and should continue to be!

Please take time to reconsider taking Cannon Air Force Base off the base closure list. It means so much to our community, our economy, our military retirees in this part of New Mexico and Texas, and our country!

Sincerely,


Cherrie Hayden

BRAC Commission
Received
6/22/2005

June 17, 2004

The BRAC COMMISSION
2521 S. Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear BRAC COMMISSION:

I was born in Clovis and Cannon Air Force Base has always been a part of my life. My mother met my step father there. My parents used the fine facilities at Cannon. I am very concerned about the Department of Defense's recommendation that Cannon Air Force Base be closed.

I want to help make the Commission aware of the unique attributes that Cannon offers to our national defense. These include un-encroached airspace suitable for training at supersonic speed, many new and existing facilities suitable for joint training exercises, and a low-cost environment that promotes cost-efficient training. Cannon is an asset to the country's armed forces.

Our local community has been supportive, donating time and land to promote the base's needs. We have also welcomed the personnel and the many veterans to our area, making them feel at home. We consider Cannon and their retirees as a part of our community family.

The closure of Cannon will also have a devastating impact on our economy. It has been estimated that the area will lose at least 20 percent of its workforce, a percentage out of line with the effect of bases closing in other communities. Cannon is critical for Clovis and the surrounding cities.

I ask you to please reconsider Cannon Air Force Base's importance to the nation and to my community. Please, let us KEEP CANNON.

Sincerely,



Krista B. Clower
Counselor
Clovis Community College

BRAC Commission
6/22/2005

June 17, 2005

Dear Commissioner Newton:

I am writing you to request that you vote to remove Cannon AFB, New Mexico from the 2005 BRAC closure list. I realize that voting to overrule the Department of Defense and remove Cannon AFB from the closure list requires a comprehensive re-assessment of DoD's evaluation of Cannon against certain criteria by you. I honestly believe that Cannon meets and exceeds the stated criteria used by DoD and that Cannon's assets did not receive sufficient consideration when the base was evaluated and designated for closure. If you have not already decided to examine Cannon AFB and hear from the citizen's representatives in Clovis on June 24, I also request you attend our town's hearing and see for yourself how wrong it would be to close this installation.

I arrived for duty at Cannon AFB on February 26, 1996, and then retired in the local area on April 1, 2001. I was a CMSgt in the base's maintenance complex during the last years the F-111 and EF-111 aircraft were in the inventory, and saw the base through the transition to the F-16. The base and 27th Fighter Wing have been non-stop contributors to the Expeditionary Air Force concept since its inception.

When evaluating Cannon AFB against current and future mission capability and contribution to the mission, as well as the cost of operations, you should please consider:

1. The Air Force underutilized Cannon for many years. In 1997, the base had 69 F-16s and 33 EF-111 aircraft—a total of 102 medium- and small-body aircraft—conducting combat support and training missions by supporting 33 deployments and 14,292 sorties in a single year.
2. Cannon has two (2) runways available—not one—and a huge parking ramp that make Cannon an exceptional location to stage for Pacific or Atlantic deployments or homeland protection. There has been significant, mission-oriented improvement of base facilities and infrastructure, and more was programmed into DoD's out-year budgets for Cannon. Cannon has a new fire station, a new control tower, improved and expanded runways, new force protection and security measures, new Mission Support Group facility, a new Security Force complex, construction has begun on a new ground equipment maintenance complex. Cannon also has a programmed Operations-Maintenance command complex, designated space for a programmed facility specifically designed to support large force deployments, a programmed state-of-the-art communications facility, and a programmed new wing headquarters.
3. There is enough hangar space on Cannon to house every aircraft presently assigned. The departure of the RSAF F-16 unit opens up even more ramp space for additional USAF aircraft.
4. Cannon's south-central location in the continental United States ensures opportunities for more training time per flying hour than most USAF installations—less than 4 weeks out of every year are lost to inclement weather. The warm, dry climate reduces wear and tear on aircraft and facilities while ensuring lower annual facility maintenance costs than bases further north. The dryer climate inhibits rusting and corrosion on aircraft, vehicles,

**BRAC Commission
Received**

6/22/2005

Lesli and Greg Duffield
1528 Lexington Rd
Clovis, NM 88101
505-763-6241

June 15, 2005

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

Dear Commissioner Bilbray:

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6/22/2005

June 17, 2005

BRAC COMMISSION
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

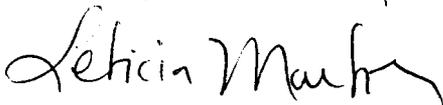
Dear BRAC Commissioners,

I am a resident of the city of Clovis, New Mexico and home of Cannon Air Force Base, listed for closure. I would ask that you carefully reconsider this closure. Cannon is a part of our community and we have an amazing relationship with the Base. I am a 30 year resident of Clovis and a public school teacher. I have had the honor of watching the children of Base personnel share their world experiences with our local children and know first hand what an asset that has been for the children of our community as well as for the Base children being exposed to our small town environment. As a mother of 3 children, I watched their friends from the Base come in and out of our home and I was very grateful for the scope they added to my children's lives. I truly feel that this shared diversity has helped to mold both into more aware, tolerant, an open minded individuals.

Also, closing Cannon Air Force Base would be an economic disaster to our community. I was a resident of Roswell, New Mexico when Walker closed and I know first hand the impact it had on my family and many others. I also am aware of what a huge impact a lack of employment will have on our community in terms of criminal activity as both go hand in hand. I ask that you look at your rubric for putting Cannon Air Force Base on the closure list, and carefully consider, not only the pluses Base personnel and local residents share as part of our community, but also the other tangibles such as the bombing range, unlimited air space, location, 2 existing runways and the capability to accommodate bigger and longer runways, as well as the economic fall out the closure will cause.

I feel confident that you are carefully weighing all the information and add a concerned citizen, public servant and mother's perspective. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely Yours,



Leticia Martínez
Clovis Resident

6/22/2005

Date: June 10, 2005

To: BRAC Committee

From: Cherrie Hayden
2104 Northglen
Clovis, NM 88101

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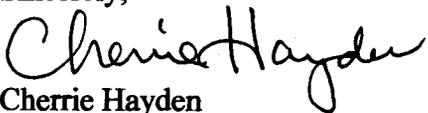
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Please take time to reconsider taking Cannon Air Force Base off the base closure list. It means so much to our community, our economy, our military retirees in this part of New Mexico and Texas, and our country!

Sincerely,


Cherrie Hayden

BRAC Commission
Received
6/22/2005

Date: June 10, 2005

To: BRAC Committee

From: Cherrie Hayden
2104 Northglen
Clovis, NM 88101

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Sincerely,


Cherrie Hayden

June 1, 2005

**BRAC Commission
Received**
6/23/2005

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

Dear Brigadier General Turner:

I urge you to overturn the Department of Defense's BRAC recommendation to close Cannon Air Force Base.

Cannon Air Force Base should not be on the BRAC closure list for many reasons. I've listed some of the key reasons below:

- Cannon does not fit the criteria provided for base closure.
- Cannon has an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues. This provides for safer and more realistic training scenarios for pilots.
- The weather in Eastern New Mexico provides year round training opportunities.
- Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war-fighting, training, and readiness as was evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy.
- In the early 90s, Curry County, in conjunction with the state of New Mexico, purchased air easements around Cannon Air Force base and GAVE them to the Air Force. This one done to protect that air space from encroachment and was an important issue for the Air Force.
- The local community purchased the land north of Cannon Air Force Base and GAVE it back to the Air Force for additional housing, now known as Chavez Manor.
- Within the last few years, our community purchased land west of Cannon and GAVE it back to the Air Force for the installation of instrument lighting on the alternate runway at the base.
- Leaders within our community spear-headed the effort to expand and convert the air space to supersonic capability through the New Mexico Training Range Initiative.

In summary, the community has reached out and supported the base like no other community over the last 50 years. We've done so financially, morally, spiritually and above all, consistently.

Respectfully, I urge you to vote to remove Cannon Air Force Base from the BRAC closure list.

Sincerely,



Loyd Rolan
1112 Alma St.
Clovis, NM 88101

June 3, 2005

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

**BRAC Commission
Received**

6/23/2005

Brigadier General Sue E. Turner

Dear Madam

Cannon Airforce Base should not be on the closure list for the following reasons.

1. The base has an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues. This provides for safer and more realistic training scenarios for pilots.
2. The weather in Eastern New Mexico provides year round training ability.
3. The Melrose bombing range is seconds from the end of the runway at Cannon. This allows pilots to get airborne and immediately begin training operations over the bombing range rather spending all of their fuel just to get to the range and making one pass over it, then returning to the base, thus saving cost of operation money.
4. Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war fighting, training and readiness as was evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy.
5. Cannon has ample space / ramp space to accommodate surge force requirements in training and emergency situations.
6. The relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and the town: Clovis, Portales, Melrose, Dora, Texico, Grady, Elida, Floyd and many towns in west Texas is fantastic. All of the people in the surrounding area work together to take care of the Air Force personnel and their families while they are stationed here.
7. It has been estimated that the closing of Cannon will cost this area the loss of many jobs and have a great negative impact on the economy than any other base on your list. Please Take Cannon Air Force Base off of the closure list. We want the base here.

Thank You



821 Axtell Street
Clovis, New Mexico 88101
(505) 763-9078

BRAC Commission

Reconnet

6/23/2005

Mary Louise McAnulla

May 23, 2005

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

Mr. Principi and Esteemed BRAC Commissioners:

I have decided to add my voice to the other citizens of Clovis, New Mexico to ask you to reconsider the posting of Cannon Air Force Base to the closure list. While I understand the logistics of supplying a base located in such a remote location, and the fact that Cannon only possesses a single airstrip, I believe that the Commission has not been properly informed of the potential benefits of keeping this base open. The main points to be stressed are the number of good flying weather days and the proximity of the Melrose Bombing Range with its new supersonic capability. Also, the fact that this is indeed a remote location limits the potential liability in the event of an in-flight emergency or crash.

The Air Force has realized the value of the training areas here in the past, as evidenced by the large number of foreign pilots who have been posted here over the past few years. The newly upgraded supersonic airspace out over open country in conjunction with the viable Melrose Bombing Range should be examined in detail.

Of course, the surrounding communities of Eastern New Mexico and West Texas would love to see this base removed from the BRAC list and would continue to fully support our fighting men and women of the Air Force.

In the end, I realize that this commission has a task to perform to streamline our military forces and that careful consideration was given to each and every base that made the list, but I ask that the Commission take a moment to give Cannon Air Force Base a second look to ensure that all the potential benefits to the overall military mission are taken into account.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Mary Louise McAnulla

June 1, 2005

BRAC Commission
Received
6/23/2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

I urge you to overturn the Department of Defense's BRAC recommendation to close Cannon Air Force Base.

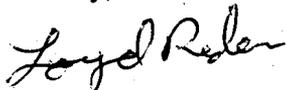
Cannon Air Force Base should not be on the BRAC closure list for many reasons. I've listed some of the key reasons below:

- Cannon does not fit the criteria provided for base closure.
- Cannon has an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues. This provides for safer and more realistic training scenarios for pilots.
- The weather in Eastern New Mexico provides year round training opportunities.
- Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war-fighting, training, and readiness as was evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy.
- In the early 90s, Curry County, in conjunction with the state of New Mexico, purchased air easements around Cannon Air Force base and GAVE them to the Air Force. This one done to protect that air space from encroachment and was an important issue for the Air Force.
- The local community purchased the land north of Cannon Air Force Base and GAVE it back to the Air Force for additional housing, now known as Chavez Manor.
- Within the last few years, our community purchased land west of Cannon and GAVE it back to the Air Force for the installation of instrument lighting on the alternate runway at the base.
- Leaders within our community spear-headed the effort to expand and convert the air space to supersonic capability through the New Mexico Training Range Initiative.

In summary, the community has reached out and supported the base like no other community over the last 50 years. We've done so financially, morally, spiritually and above all, consistently.

Respectfully, I urge you to vote to remove Cannon Air Force Base from the BRAC closure list.

Sincerely,



Loyd Rolan
1112 Alma St.
Clovis, NM 88101

June 3, 2005

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

**BRAC Commission
Received**
6/23/2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi

Dear Sir

Cannon Airforce Base should not be on the closure list for the following reasons.

1. The base has an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues. This provides for safer and more realistic training scenarios for pilots.
2. The weather in Eastern New Mexico provides year round training ability.
3. The Melrose bombing range is seconds from the end of the runway at Cannon. This allows pilots to get airborne and immediately begin training operations over the bombing range rather spending all of their fuel just to get to the range and making one pass over it, then returning to the base, thus saving cost of operation money.
4. Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war fighting, training and readiness as was evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy.
5. Cannon has ample space / ramp space to accommodate surge force requirements in training and emergency situations.
6. The relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and the town: Clovis, Portales, Melrose, Dora, Texico, Grady, Elida, Floyd and many towns in west Texas is fantastic. All of the people in the surrounding area work together to take care of the Air Force personnel and their families while they are stationed here.
7. It has been estimated that the closing of Cannon will cost this area the loss of many jobs and have a great negative impact on the economy than any other base on your list. Please Take Cannon Air Force Base off of the closure list. We want the base here.

Thank You



6/22/2005

June 7, 2005

Dear Honorable Philip Coyle:

I am writing in response to the current BRAC recommendation to close Cannon Air Force Base (CAFB) currently located in Clovis, New Mexico. As a life-long resident of a nearby community (Texico, New Mexico) I am truly concerned about the impacts the closure of Cannon would have on our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to bring some items to your attention. First and foremost Cannon does not fit the criteria for base closure. CAFB has an abundance of air space and we do have the encroachment issues of many other bases. In addition, once the New Mexico Training Range Initiative is implemented, we will be able to offer pilots the ability to fly supersonic during training missions. The weather in Eastern New Mexico is also ideal to provide year-round training ability and CAFB has space and facilities to accommodate changes in force requirements in the future. Finally, the Melrose Bombing Range is literally seconds from the runway at Cannon, giving pilots the convenience and cost savings of becoming airborne and immediately beginning training, rather than spending precious time and fuel flying to the range and then returning to refuel.

Our local community almost identifies itself with Cannon Air Force Base. Over the last 50 years our surrounding communities have supported CAFB like no other community in our country. Our community has even purchased air easements and land around CAFB and given them to Cannon at no cost! Our community has reached out and supported CAFB financially, morally, spiritually, and above all, consistently.

The closure of Cannon Air Force Base would have an absolutely devastating impact on our community. We have heard estimates that the area would lose as much as 20% of our workforce. This is much larger than estimated in the original recommendations and is completely out of line with the effect of base closings in other communities. Our community is also home to a very large military retiree population who depend on CAFB for healthcare, grocery shopping, and other services.

Cannon Air Force Base is critical for us to survive and prosper as the community we've become. I implore you to please reconsider the original recommendations and consider Cannon's importance to our nation and to my community. Please, let us KEEP CANNON!!

Sincerely,



Monica J. Sanchez

6/22/2005

Dear Mr. Gehman;

As a citizen of Clovis, N.M., and a New Mexico National Guard officer, I am writing to you to share my concerns over the closing of Cannon Air Force Base. Whereas you have already heard from many of the civilian population reference to the economic impact on our area, I will confine my letter to tactical and military issues, which I suspect many of my brothers and sister: Active Duty, Guard, Reserve or retired, have also shared.

The first concern is the tactical location of the base. Proximity to Amarillo and to Lubbock are important, but please consider proximity to Sandia Laboratory and to Ft. Bliss, TX. Cannon sits near, but not too near, these locations. Should any threat attack either of these locations, it would be close timing for Holloman AFB or Kirtland AFB to respond. Cannon is far enough away, however, to have planes in the air before the enemy could disable Cannon, in all likelihood.

The second concern is the excellence of training opportunities. I must admit that I am not a pilot; I have never even flown in any military craft except C-130s and Blackhawks. However, one need not be a pilot to grasp the reality that the number of training days in this area is phenomenal. Clear skies, weather that is temperate with few heat or cold extremes, and open air space are all a piece of the training picture in this area.

The third concern is the availability of expansion space. The area has recently been given support for supersonic flight, and the Melrose bombing range is within flight minutes- even driving minutes- from the base itself. If I were a pilot flying training missions, I would see this as optimal use of training time. As well, should the base need to expand, there is much open space to the west and the north.

The fourth concern is a morale issue. Guard, Reserve and retiree families from West Texas and eastern New Mexico use the facilities of the base, some {such as the fitness center} on a very frequent basis. While morale may not be a deciding factor, I as a chaplain officer am trained to consider and keep a pulse on such things. A soldier whose morale is good is much more productive than one who feels that he or she is expendable.

This leads into a training issue. As you probably know, it has been fairly common for the New Mexico Guard to cross train with CAFB, meaning everything from the Roving Sands exercises at Ft. Bliss to utilizing the Cannon rifle range for M-16 qualifications. This not only set up a good working relationship, but allowed for less travel time and more training time.

For the sake of the community, but also for some very pragmatic tactical considerations, please rethink the closing of Cannon Air Force Base.

Respectfully,

Clyde G. Davis Jr 1930 Glenarm Dr. Clovis, NM 88101

**BRAC Commission
Received**

6/22/2005

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

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,



Ruthie Hefner, Ph.D.

**BRAC Commission
Received**

6/22/2005

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

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Ruthie Hefner, Ph.D.

**BRAC Commission
Received**

6/22/2005

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

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Thank you for this opportunity,



Ruthie Hefner, Ph.D.

JUSTUS REALTY

C. H. JUSTUS, JR. G.R.I.
BROKER

BRAC Commission
Received

6/22/2005

Telephone (505) 356-8594
P.O. Box 784
219 W. 2nd St.
Portales, New Mexico 88130

June 16, 2005

To the BRAC Commission,

I want to request that you vote to keep Cannon Air Force Base.

Cannon does not fit the criteria provided for base closure.

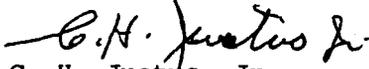
Once the NM Training Range Initiative is implemented, Cannon will be able to offer pilots the ability to fly supersonic during training missions.

The weather in eastern NM provides year-around training. Also, Cannon has ample space/ramp space to accommodate surge force requirements in training and emergency situations. The air space and weather make Cannon the perfect candidate to support future training mission for the F-22, Joint Strike Fighter, and other military aircraft.

Our economy relies on Cannon more than any other area in the country. Cannon closing would have a great negative impact on the economy of Clovis, Portales, Melrose and West Texas towns.

Thank you for recommending keeping Cannon.

Sincerely,


C. H. Justus, Jr.

San Jon Municipal Schools... shaping the future, one child at a time.

SAN JON SCHOOLS

CRAIG STOCKTON
Superintendent
PO Box 5
San Jon, NM 88434

Phone: 505-576-2466
Fax: 505-576-2772
Email: cstockton@sanjonschools.com



June 15, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The San Jon School Board of Education, during the June 13, 2005 meeting, unanimously voted to send this letter of support for the continued operation of Cannon Air Force Base.

We are sure that the BRAC commission is already aware of the many positive attributes Cannon brings to our national defense. The abundance of air space with no encroachment issues, combined with Eastern New Mexico's weather provides for year round training ability. The proximity of the Melrose Bombing Range allows pilots to begin training almost immediately after becoming airborne rather than spending time and fuel just to get to the range. Cannon's recent training effort with the US Navy demonstrates that it has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war training and readiness. Once the New Mexico Training Range Initiative is implemented, pilots flying from Cannon will be able to fly supersonic, allowing them real-life training situations.

Clovis, Curry County, and the entire surrounding area have a strong 50 year relationship with Cannon Air Force Base. The area around Cannon show its support with their hearts as well as their wallets with the purchase of air easements and property for additional housing along with land for the installation of instrument lighting on the alternate runway at the base. We are certain that the nature of this relationship, combined with the unique qualities of Eastern New Mexico are an important part of Cannon's ability to maintain its award winning status on the ACC level, Air Force and NAF levels, and national and STAT levels.

San Jon is a small village situated 60 miles north of Cannon in eastern New Mexico. As there is no other military installation close by, our community's military retiree population rely on Cannon Air Force Base for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more.

The civilian population of our community is also affected by the positive economic impact of the base. Because there is little industry in the surrounding area we depend on

BRAC Commission

Ann L. Rowley

JUL 4 2005

Received

June 6, 2005

Dear Commissioner,

My husband & I have lived in
town for 30 yrs & have been members
of Committee of '50 since 1980. We
are Cannon & its people are an
integral part of our community.

The economic impact on our
business is over \$105,000.00/yr.
The "shut down" effect & the business
loss from TriCare would be
devastating. We are nearing re-
tirement age & it would have a
terrible effect on us & our employees
as we could not fund our
pension plan.

Thank you for listening and
please keep Cannon open for our
community, the Air Force & our
National Defense.

Sincerely,
Ann L.

OPERATION KEEP CANNON**JUL 14 2005****Received**

To the distinguished BRAC committee,

We are the communities of Curry and Roosevelt County that have had the honor of having Cannon Air Force Base a part of our community for more than 50 years. There are many reasons that Cannon should NOT be on the BRAC list.

Some of the things are the abundance of air space, void of any encroachment issues. The future use of super sonic fly space, the fabulous weather that permits a year round training ability, In addition, the Melrose bombing range is seconds from the end of the runway at Cannon, which allows pilots to get airborne and immediately begin training operations over the bombing range, rather than spending all of their fuel just to get to the range, having one pass over, then returning to the base.

Cannon has the space and facilities to accommodate joint war fighting, training, and readiness as was evidenced by the recent joint training effort between Cannon and the US Navy. Cannon has won countless awards, both on the ACC level, Air Force and NAF levels, and national and STAT levels.

In the early 90's, Curry County, in conjunction with the state of New Mexico purchased air easements around Cannon Air Force Base and GAVE them to the Air Force. This was done to protect that air space from encroachments and was an important issue for the Air Force as it is today. The local community purchased land North of Cannon Air Force Base and GAVE it back to the Air Force for additional housing, now known as Chavez Manor. Within the last few years, our community purchased land west of Cannon and GAVE it back to the Air Force for the installation of instrument lighting on the alternate runway at the base.

As hopefully you will personally witness, the relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and the surrounding towns: Clovis, Portales, Lubbock, Amarillo and many others is UNLIKE ANY OTHER INSTALLATION IN THE COUNTRY. These towns are home to large military retiree populations which rely on Cannon Air Force Base for healthcare, grocery shopping and more.

Our community has reached out and supported the base like no other community over the past 50 years. We've done so financially, morally, spiritually and above all, consistently. We are proud, honored and blessed to have Cannon Air Force Base and will stand behind it and everything it stands for every step of the way.

Sincerely,

Ann Lowley
Nicholas J. Lowley, MD

BRAC Commission

JUL 14 2005

Received

OPERATION KEEP CANNON

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Sincerely,

Ann Rowley
Richard V. Rowley

Ann L. Rowley

JUL 14 2005

June 11, 2005

Received

Dear Commissioner,

My husband & I have been members of the Committee '50 since 1982 and feel strongly that Cannon and its people are an integral part of our community.

Our business alone would be impacted over \$105,000. to pay plus the "buckle down" effect. This would be devastating to us as we reach our retirement age.

Please keep Cannon open - for the good of our community, the Air Force, and our National defense.

Sincerely
Ann L.

OPERATION KEEP CANNON

BRAC Commission

JUL 14 2005

Received

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Ann Rowley
Richard T Rowley MD

JUL 14 2005

Received

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Ann Kowdy
Nicholas T. Kowdy

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BRAC Commission

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Sincerely,

Ann Lowly
Richard T. Raley

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



RECEIVED

06272005

June 22, 2005

Dear BRAC Commissioners,

I'm writing to express my support for the removal of Cannon Air Force Base from the Base Realignment and Closure list. By the time you receive this letter, many of your members will have visited Clovis, NM, and witnessed firsthand the excellent partnership that exists between Cannon Air Force Base and our community. I have lived in Clovis for the past 11 years, having moved here after marrying the son of a retired Air Force Master Sergeant. I also have one brother-in-law who has retired from the Air Force here in Clovis, as well as another brother-in-law currently serving in the Air Force. I witness first-hand the benefits that veterans and their families receive from Cannon Air Force Base. My in-laws do the majority of their shopping on base, taking advantage of the commissary and base exchange. They receive medical care and attend church on base, as well as social and community events. I am confident that their way of life and means for providing for their homes would drastically change if they were no longer able to access these amenities. As I'm sure that you are aware from community correspondence, this aspect of the possible closure of Cannon Air Force Base affects a significant portion of the population of Clovis, as our town is quite a popular location for Air Force Retirees who often return to Clovis from other locales.

As principal of one of the local elementary schools, I witness the benefits of Cannon's partnership with the Clovis community on a regular basis. Airmen volunteer in our schools, working with kids and improving school grounds. They serve as mentors to young students and volunteer their time and efforts to build up the youth of our community. The loss of Air Force families means the loss of students in our schools. This would have a significant impact on the funding provided to our district, as well as the staffing of our classrooms. We do not want to lose these precious families who bring such varied experiences and perspectives to our classrooms! As a member of Faith Christian Family Church I have come to know many military families and consider them friends. Our church reaches out to military families and welcomes them to the community, and what a blessing that has been! Air Force families have brought such strength to our community. Never before have I been a part of a community that so conscientiously forms a partnership with a military installation.

I am sure that you have heard many times over the benefits that Cannon Air Force Base brings to our military defense. The wide open supersonic air space, lack of encroachment issues, excellent flying weather, and close proximity to Melrose bombing range are but a few of the military issues that Cannon Air Force Base resolves. But I believe it more important for you to hear about the personal impacts that the closing of this base would have. You will find no other community that is more committed to its military. I am proud to be part of a community that is taking this opportunity to showcase the strengths of our relationship with the Air Force rather than scrambling to create the appearance of something that is not sincere and longstanding. We have a stellar reputation among airmen in this regard, and we're proud to show you what we're about. We loved having you in Clovis. Thank you for the time you've taken to learn about us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Carrie Nigreville'.

Carrie Nigreville

Sandra Shaw
240 Lincoln Ave
Clovis, NM 88101

May 19, 2005



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

Dear BRAC Commission,

First I would like to say that I understand that what you are being asked to do is no easy task, and my prayers are with you all. My concern is that Cannon, AFB is on your list for closure. Cannon has won countless awards, both on ACC level, Air Force and NAF levels, and national and STAT levels. This is a top-notch base and according to the information provided to us by our community leaders Cannon doesn't fit the criteria provided for base closure.

We as a community has and will continue to reached out and supported the base financially, morally, spiritually and above all, consistently. Here are a few community projects completed for the improvement of the base training ability and housing issues. Curry County, along with the State of New Mexico, purchased air easements around Cannon, AFB and gave them to the Air Force. This was done to protect that air space from encroachment. This provides for safer and more realistic training scenarios for pilots, which was an important issue for the Air Force. Our community has also supported Cannon by purchasing the land north of Cannon Air Force Base and gave it back to the Air Force for additional housing, now known as Chavez Manor. Also within the last few years, our community purchased land west of Cannon and also gave it back to the Air Force for the installation of instrumental lighting on the alternate runway at the base.

Leaders within our community spearheaded the effort to expand and convert the air space to supersonic capability through the New Mexico Training Range Initiative. Once the New Mexico Training Range Initiative is implemented, we will be able to offer pilots the ability to fly supersonic during training missions. Which allows the Air Force to better train for real-life situations.

The convenience of the Melrose bombing range, which is seconds away from the end of the runway at Cannon allows pilots to get airborne, and immediately begin training operations. This saves money because the pilots aren't spending all of their fuel just to get to the range, having one pass over, then returning to the base. In my understanding the fuel used is very expensive.

The weather in Eastern New Mexico provides year round training ability. Which make Cannon the perfect candidate to support future training missions for the F-22 Joint Strike Fighter, and other military aircrafts.

Clovis, Portales, Eastern New Mexico, West Texas (including Amarillo and Lubbock) are home to a large military retiree population. These people rely on Cannon Air Force base for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close by to serve or retired military community.

In addition to all the point mentioned in my letter, the closing of Cannon Air Force Base would be a serious blow to our economy. New Mexico is high on the list as one of the poorest states in America.

The relationship between Cannon Air Force Base and the surrounding towns: Clovis, Portales, West Texas, and others, is unlike any other installation in the country. This has been 50 years of a wonderful relationship and we feel it is important for the military mission to keep Cannon open and fully operational. Not only that but our community also enjoy the different community events that Cannon provides for the community such as Tops and Blue, Stars and Sound, and other open house activities from year to year,

Again, I commend you on the task you have before you. I thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for consider the points I have highlighted. I hope this information has given you a different perspective and decide that Cannon is essential to the mission of the military.

God Bless You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Shaw". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'S' and a long, sweeping underline.

Sandra A. Shaw

Dear BRAC Commission,

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I am a 6th grade teacher at Bella Vista Elementary School in Clovis, NM. Cannon Air Force Base is very important to our school. One of our major contributors as volunteers are the Air Force guys and girls.

These troops are amazing- Whenever we need them, they are here. On March 31, of this year our school celebrated Cesar Chavez Day as cleaning up our community. It was 40° degrees outside and steadily dropping. We had 35 volunteers that stood right next to our students and cleaned up our neighborhood. It was a wonderful freezing day.

Cannon troops volunteer on a regular basis at our school. They are role models for our children.

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Without these volunteers my students will be left behind. I hope you realize the damage it could do to some kids lives. My student's need role models. I would like to be able to have you come to our neighborhood and see why my kids need them in their lives.

Ms. Corsey