

GAYE COOKE

1739 Belvoir Cir.
Clovis, NM 88101
Home (505) 762-3038
Cell. (505) 760-3038
gaye@crehomes.org

RECEIVED
06102005

May 24, 2005

BRAC Commission
Attn. Philip Coyle
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Coyle,

Having been a resident of Clovis, New Mexico for 22 years, I wish to convey my support for keeping Cannon Air Force Base open.

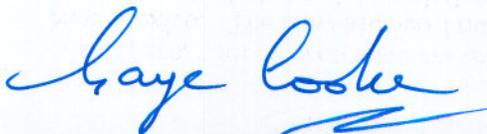
Closing Cannon Air Force Base would be a **monumental mistake**, this base is extremely important to the United States military mission. No where else in the U.S. is there the availability of air space, with no encroachment issues, combined with the ideal flying weather of Eastern New Mexico. The New Mexico Training Range Initiative, once implemented will allow pilots to fly supersonic during training missions. In addition the Melrose bombing range is just seconds from the end of the Cannon runway, making this the best location in the nation for pilot training.

As an Air Force spouse, I moved here from England in 1983. Of all the locations in the world that I have visited, no where else will one find a community as closely linked, and as supportive to the military base as Clovis, NM. When my husband retired from active duty we chose to make Clovis our permanent home due to the close relationship the community maintains with the base. My son also serves as a fireman in the US Air Force, and plans to move back to Clovis, and Cannon Air Force Base, in the near future.

As an active member of the community, a Chamber Ambassador, and a Director of the Clovis Board of Realtors, I can already see the effects that the announcement alone is having. The economic impact of closing Cannon, would be devastating and would have huge consequences on the economy of not only Clovis, but Portales, Melrose, Farwell, Texico, Fort Sumner, Logan, Santa Rosa, Tucumcari, and large areas of Eastern New Mexico and West Texas, including Amarillo, and Lubbock. All these are home to large military retiree populations, who rely on Cannon Air Force Base for healthcare, grocery shopping and more. This closure would affect many thousands of people.

I trust that you will make the right decision, and remove Cannon from the closure list. This facility is vital to our national defense, and to the economy of the surrounding area.

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BRAC Commission
Attn. Samuel Knox Skinner
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Skinner,

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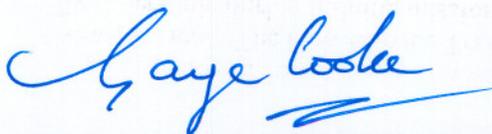
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BRAC Commission
Attn. Sue Ellen Turner
2521 S. Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

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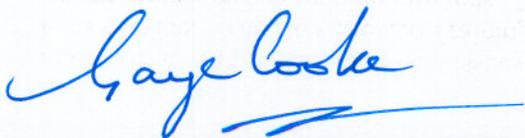
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Attn. James H. Bilbray
2521 S. Clark St.
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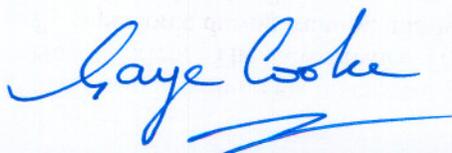
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Attn. Harold W Gehman, Jr
2521 S. Clark St.
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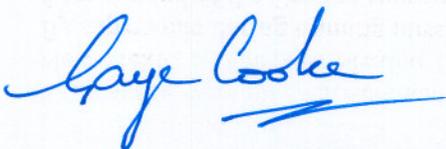
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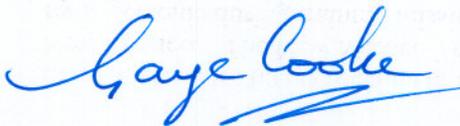
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