

June 2, 2005

06102005
RECEIVED

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

Dear Commissioner Hansen:

I am writing to protest the Department of Defense's recommendation to close Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico. The base has been a part of Cannon and the surrounding communities for 50 years and has been well-supported. Closing it would destroy the local economy, much as it did in nearby Roswell back in 1967.

In an area as isolated as this from large cities, just the effect of losing 20 percent of the workforce would leave hundreds of homes empty and valueless. The new restaurants in town would shut down for lack of business. The ripple effect would resemble more of a tsunami. Bases in highly populated areas such as California would have no problem compensating for the loss of renters and buyers, but I guarantee you that Clovis would never recover from the shock.

In addition, Clovis is such a great place for an Air Force base. Every day when I drive from Portales to Clovis on NM 467, a distance of about 20 miles, I watch the planes soaring overhead. There is so much air space here for the pilots to train, and in the event of an accident, there is much less of a chance that someone on the ground would be hurt or killed. Plus, the weather is fantastic. Our skies are clear and blue just about every day of the year. Snow is just an occasional minor inconvenience.

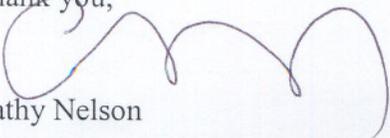
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We in Clovis are proud of our base, which has a strong reputation and has won countless awards. We have supported these brave soldiers over the decades, and they, in turn, have supported us. In fact, at the apartment complex where I live, at least half the cars bear Cannon stickers. Who will fill these apartments if the men and women in BDUs leave town? No one, I fear.

To sum it up, we love our base, and we don't want to lose it. Not everyone who lives near an Air Force base feels this way, but we do, and we are not ashamed of it. Why close a base that is so well-supported by the community, and so essential to its economy, while leaving others open that receive nothing but criticism and ill will. Surely, these factors should come into play when making your final decision.

Please reconsider your recommendation to close Cannon Air Force Base. We need it, and we want it.

Thank you,


Cathy Nelson

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

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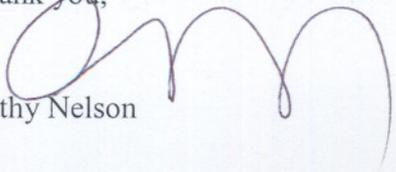
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The Honorable James H. Bilbray
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Bilbray:

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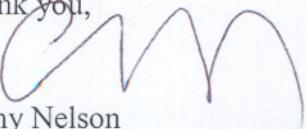
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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

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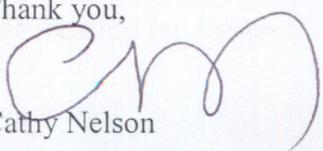
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Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
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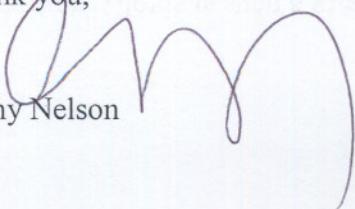
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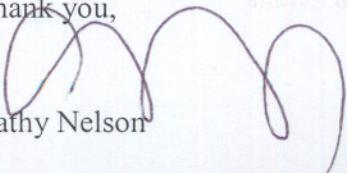
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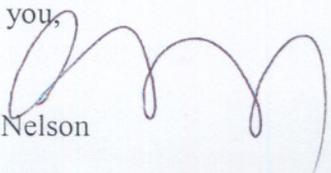
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BRAC Commission
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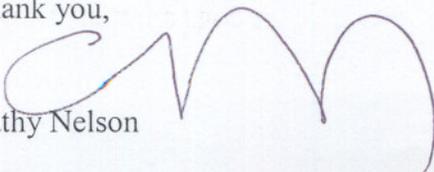
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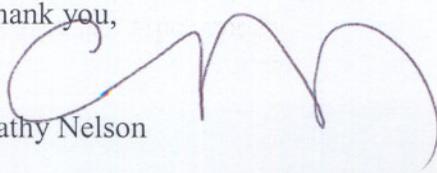
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