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118 Tanning Way
Clovis, New Mexico 88101

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June 2, 2005

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

To the Honorable Mr. Principi:

I, too, am writing you to ask that you and your commission reconsider your decision on Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico. I am certainly no expert when it comes to military affairs—I am a retired elementary music teacher. But I do know the city in which I have lived for over 40 years.

This part of New Mexico is a rural area and we are blessed with beautiful weather most of the year. This in itself is a plus for an air force base—many days of perfect flying weather. But being rural, we have always depended on our farmers and ranchers. This has really not been possible for the last few years because our part of the country has suffered from an extreme drought. Of course, this has brought financial problems to our farm people and when they suffer, we all suffer. Losing the air force base would just be another financial blow to the community.

And speaking from a teacher's point of view, we most certainly would lose one elementary school, and perhaps two. This, in turn, might affect one of the junior highs. Clovis has one of the best school systems in the state. Certainly not with some of the problems found in the schools in Albuquerque, where, according to the Albuquerque News Journal, Air Force parents are hesitant about enrolling their children in the public schools.

I hope you and your committee can visit Cannon and Clovis and get to know our people—both on base and in town. The base facility is excellent, not to mention the Melrose Bombing Range which can be reached in seconds by our pilots. The air space is over-whelming and flights are not a threat to a metropolitan area, such as in Phoenix, for example.

We have the space and facilities to do many things in the future for the Air Force, as well as the other armed forces. In fact, they just finished a joint training effort with the US Navy.

For over 50 years, our community has enjoyed a strong relationship with Cannon. People

stationed at Cannon have been impressed by this fact and have often compared it favorably with other bases where they have been stationed. Many have even returned here to retire. Also, the base is also very important to the retired military personnel in our area. It is the only military base in a 500 mile radius where they can come for healthcare, groceries, etc.

In closing, I ask again that you and the commission reconsider you decision and give Cannon Air Force Base a chance to continue to be the capable, well-trained facility it has always been. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Yours truly,
Mrs. Jim Elyce Wade