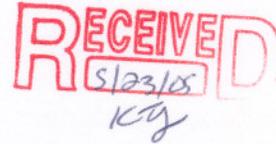


BRAC commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202



To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Judy Chandler. I'm a life-long resident of Clovis, New Mexico. My great grandparents homesteaded 20 miles north of the Melrose Community in the early 1900s. Needless to say, I'm very well rooted in this area. I work as a DoD civilian on Cannon Air Force Base, and have done so for 16 years. My husband (Rick) is also a DoD civilian (born and raised in Clovis as well) for 18+ years. My mother gave 30 years of her life in service to the Air Force and this base and has since passed away. She retired in 1987.

I want to tell my story to help emphasize the need in *this* community for Cannon Air Force Base to stay open. We have family in the area that needs caring for. My dad is legally blind and cannot drive. I need to help care for his needs. My in-laws are older and also not in good health. The most personal effect of this proposed base closure will be to them. I can move, my husband can move, but they will no longer have someone to take care of them. This places an undue hardship on the elderly and retired folks in this area (especially the retired military).

Also, as I stated above, I am very well rooted in this area. The farmers and ranchers in the area are my friends and relatives. Melrose Range was acquired by the Air Force by eminent domain. Should Melrose Range be closed, will that land be cleaned up and offered back to those who fought not to give it up? Yes, those folks were paid for their land, but their deep heritage should give them some right of return should it not? It's just a question. If those folks (or their descendants) were the ones who suffered the conditions of homesteading on open desert land in the early 1900s, why would they not be offered the opportunity to reacquire the land that was taken from them? Again, this is just a question for your consideration.

I have personally worked for nine colonels (from 1989 to present). Right now, one is a 3-star retired; two are 2-stars, one is a 1-star. Three are retired colonels and one has a line for Brig Gen. The ones I have heard from personally since the announcement, say "they've got it wrong." They also reiterate the "great" community relations. I've given my heart and soul to this community and base, and can't stand idly by while a commission or politician who doesn't even know me or anything about my home or community makes decisions that so tremendously impact the many individual citizens (voters) who live in this area.

Cannon's mission is **very valuable!! The unencroached airspace and the real-world missions they support will indeed impact the national security of this country.** Our support of Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom is continuous, and we do so with great pride! We train and fight hard and are called to support the real-world contingencies regularly. We can deploy rapidly and support any operations at any time, anywhere!

Our different blocks of aircraft were a great challenge to convert to, but Cannon's fine folks stepped up and made it happen. Not only that, but they won the Installation Excellence Award and the Best Maintenance unit in the Air Force among myriad other awards. How, on earth, can the Pentagon say we have the least amount of military value compared to all other fighter bases especially when the DoD was the one handing out the previously mentioned awards?

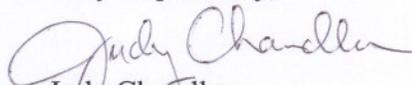
I believe that if the true criteria was indeed used (vice political agendas), then we should not have even been considered for closure.

I will do as I'm told and perform my duties as if we were not closing; however, my opinion stands, that this decision was not made without bias, and definitely smells of politics and money (perhaps oil-related).

Again, I hope someone reads this letter, as it was crafted from my heart.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Very respectfully,



Judy Chandler
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