



200 Sandia Dr.  
Clovis, NM 88101

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

Atten: Samuel Knox Skinner

Like many citizens, and even former citizens of Clovis, I feel that the BRAC Commission has perhaps overlooked several factors in making the decision to close Cannon Air Force Base.

The first airfield at the site of the present CAFB was established by Charles Lindbergh in 1929 for commercial trimotor planes crossing the American continent. In all probability, one of the things he considered in making his choice was the climate. There are very few days or nights when our weather is such that Cannon crews are unable to take to the air.

In 1943, when the decision was made to build the Clovis Army Air Base, the climate was a factor along with the level terrain for hundreds of miles in every direction, two considerations essential for the best results in training crews for what were then considered big planes. That should still be important for the planes of today. The supersonic airspace Cannon has should be considered.

Melrose Bombing Range is approximately 40 miles from Cannon. The short time it takes to get there must save a tremendous amount of fuel and thus cost.

Encroachment is not a factor at Cannon. There are two runways, one of which has been recently redone. In addition, there are many auxiliary strips for coasting to and from takeoffs and landings. (What a nightmare Kirkland must have with the Sunport International Airport next door and mountains on two sides, to say nothing of being surrounded by what in any state would be considered a pretty good sized city. Yet Kirkland is being enlarged.)

The Government has spent millions to make the base one of the most modern in nation. It is a city within itself, with it's own water works, sewage system, power and light lines, gas stations, banks, fire department, restaurants, and housing. And yet, the people stationed at Cannon have become a part of Clovis, too. We have welcomed them into our hearts and homes, schools, clubs, churches and community activities. Our children and theirs benefit from learning about other cultures and even countries and so do we adults. Friendships are formed that last after they have retired or been reassigned to another base. Many come back to Clovis to retire. After 50 years, my family is still in touch with airmen stationed here in the early 50's.

I ask that BRAC take another look at what Cannon Air Force Base has to offer the Nation's defense.

Sincerely,

*Charlotte Kelley Camerer*  
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2521 S.Clark St.  
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Atten: Former Representative James H. Bilbray

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Atten: Retired General James T. Hill

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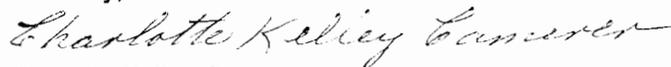
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Atten: Retired General Lloyd "Fig" Newton

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Atten: Phillip Coyle

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Atten: Retired Brigadier General Sue Ellen Turner

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