

Dear BRAC Commission,

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I am writing to you regarding Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico.

In 1995 we were transferred from Luke Air Force Base, in Arizona to Cannon as we were caught up in a realignment of my husbands job & rank. Being moved to Cannon was the worst possible thing that could happen to me. I had to leave my friends, sell my house & leave a very good job.

Everyone told me, it was a good community & that it would grow on me. I couldn't wait to leave Cannon as soon as I got here. However, 10 years later we are still here & finally after being here 8 years we purchased a home in Portales. We now have 2 beautiful children & planned on staying here after my husband retires in about a year. We have grown to love the community we live in. There really is such a thing as a "small town mentality". The communities embrace Cannon & supports Cannon in their mission, unlike any other AF community we have lived in.

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With my husbands pending retirement the closure issue affects us, just as it affects all of the soon to be retirees & retired individuals & families. Now we are going to be forced to make a decision to stay or move as closing the base will make ~~it~~ it difficult for us to utilize access our retiree benefits - namely MTF (Healthcare & Rx's) & Commissary benefits. We also use Recreational facilities & Religious facilities @ Cannon. Now we will be forced to sell our house, in a depressed market, & move somewhere we can access these benefits in a reasonable distance with a higher cost of living.

If Cannon is closed all retirees in Eastern New Mexico & West Texas will ~~will~~ lose access to these benefits as there is not another military installation within a reasonable distance. This means my family will have to travel @ least 4 hours to ~~Kirkland~~ Kukland or Alamogordo^{10th} to renew our Id cards every 4 years for benefits which are difficult to obtain.

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I believe Cannon has a lot to offer first the Air Force & its mission & secondly the communities of both Portales & Clovis.

Cannon benefits by being "mission ready" where else can you fly practically all year round, with ~~the~~ no encroachment issues, let alone fly @ Supersonic speeds & have a bombing range, literally @ the end of the runway. We need to keep our bases open this can be done by becoming more efficient, why contract to buy a bolt for \$99⁰⁰ when the same bolt can be bought for \$5⁰⁰ down the road. True Value. Why not tighten up budgets & expenditures.

I am an educated person with a Masters Degree & run a large multi-specialty, multi-location Healthcare clinic & I have to look for ways daily to be more efficient in the way we spend our monies, why can't the Air Force do that?

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I'm sure my comments do not differ from the several thousand you have already read, however, I truly believe closing Cannon would be the wrong thing to do. Cannon is mission ready & has proven their Readiness in exemplary ways - look @ the awards Air Force wide Cannon has won. Closing Cannon will take jobs away & drastically affect the economies of Clovis & Portales, a community rich in spirit.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter & please, @ least look fairly & honestly @ Cannon & your criteria for Base closure, I'm sure if you do you will find that Cannon does not meet closure Criteria.

Thank You & God Bless,

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