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Rep. James Bilbray
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA. 22202

Dear Mr. Bilbray,

I was shocked and saddened when I heard the news of Cannon Air Force Base being placed on the BRAC list for closure. I have been a resident of Clovis and Portales since 1967 and have witnessed the partnership between Cannon Air Force Base and these communities. Our communities have welcomed the Air Force and its personnel from the time that the facility was established here.

Cannon was an important facility during World War II in the training of almost 6500 B-29 crewmen. It is my understanding that some 25% of the F-16 pilots participating in the liberation of Iraq received their training at Cannon Air Force Base. I believe that there was no loss of life or aircraft from that group evidencing the quality of training received at Cannon Air Force Base

While I am not fully versed in the specifics of the criteria that was to be used in determining which facilities were to be placed on the closure list it seems to me that many of the more important issues have been met easily by Cannon. The facility is well located with respect to Clovis and there is ample room for expansion. There are no problems whatsoever with encroachment. That must surely be a big benefit to the Air Force based on what I have heard regarding facilities in other areas of the country. The quality of the airspace is near the top of the list from what I understand and with the upgrading of the bombing range to include supersonic capability that must only add to the value of Cannon, and our weather.

Should Cannon Air Force Base be closed it will undoubtedly have a large negative impact on our communities and that is something that I do not want to see, but I have to also believe that the negative impact on the Air Force will be just as great. I believe that once you have visited our communities and reviewed all of the facts surrounding the facility with regards to the criteria originally set forth by the BRAC commission you will discover that placing Cannon on the closure list is a mistake for the Air Force as well as the Clovis/Portales communities. I ask you to look long and carefully at the many advantages to continuing the operation of Cannon Air Force Base, and to remove it from the list of closures.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Dart