

To: BRAC Commission  
May 23, 2005

Dear Committee,

I am writing this letter in reference to the announcement to close Cannon Air Force Base. I have lived in Clovis, N.M all my life. Cannon and its employees have had a positive impact on our community. Currently, I work for the Clovis Schools and I test students from Singapore. Their fathers are generally stationed at the Base. These students add so much to our culture. They help us to appreciate our lifestyle as well as theirs. Our lives here in Clovis have been enhanced by the different cultures stationed at Cannon Air Base.

I want to ask that you reconsider closing Cannon Air Force Base. We believe that Cannon does not fit the criteria provided for a base to be closed. We here at Clovis have done numerous things to show our desire for the base to be here. We have an abundance of air space and no encroachment issues. As you know our weather is such that training can be done year round.

We are proud of Cannon Air Base. Cannon has won countless awards, both on ACC level, Air Force and NAF levels, and national and STAT levels. Our relationship with Cannon is a positive one. We would really like to maintain this relationship. Also, Cannon is home to a large military retiree population. These people rely on Cannon Air Force base for healthcare, grocery shopping, and more. There is not another installation close by to serve our retired military.

This is just a few of the reasons I am asking you to rethink your decision to close down Cannon Air Force Base. I believe if you look at the pros and cons you will see that it makes more sense to maintain this base than to close it. My faith tells me that our President as well as this committee wants our country to be protected. I feel Cannon Air Force Base not only does that, but also does it well.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Melissa Watkins

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5/26/05