

May 21, 2005

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The 2005 BRAC Commissioners,

My family and I moved to Clovis, NM from a large metropolitan city about three years ago. At that time I admit I was hesitant about moving here. I had never lived in a "small town" before. Over the ensuing years I've grown to love this town (rural-community) and the people. We were made to feel welcome right from the start. The people here are the friendliest and most caring people you could ever meet. Clovis is a small town with a large military presence. You come into contact with the service men and women and their families every day. Many of my neighbors are military families and some of my best friends are military wives. Several teachers at my children's school are also military spouses.

In the city I lived in previously there was also an Air Force Base but the overall military presence wasn't so obvious. But when the military makes up 20-25% of a town's population and economy it really impacts the community in a profound way. So I hope you can understand how I and 30,000 of my fellow citizens felt Friday, May 13 when it was announced on TV and radio that Cannon Air Force Base was on the BRAC list. Clovis and Cannon are intertwined so closely that you don't think of one without the other.

If Cannon is closed I seriously doubt whether the Clovis Community College, Plains Regional Medical Center, the new VA Clinic, and certain public schools will survive. Part of Clovis's economic lifeline will be cut should the base close. How do you survive if a lifeline has been severed? Imagine 1 in 4 people leaving any town or city in the USA. The economic impact would be devastating. Please re-evaluate your decision to close Cannon. The relationship between Cannon and the Clovis/Portales area is like no other I have ever experienced, and it would be a travesty to lose it.

Sincerely



Sandra Donaldson.