

May 23, 2005

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Chris Walters
11024 River Plantation Drive
Austin, TX 78747

BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear BRAC Commission Members:

Although I no longer live in Clovis, NM, I am writing this letter in support of keeping Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis. I met my husband of 40 years when he was stationed at CAFB, so the base has a special place in my heart.

Over the years I have read that other communities are complaining about the noise and danger of having jet planes flying over their suburban homes in already crowded commercial airspace. There are no suburbs near CAFB. There are maybe two to four commercial flights into the Clovis Municipal Airport daily. Military pilots have room to fly and excellent weather for flying. Pilots can fly, I am told, 320 out of 360 days a year. That is important!

When the New Mexico Training Range Initiative is begun, pilots can fly at supersonic speeds and disrupt only a few cows. This is not the situation at bases like Luke Air Force Base in Arizona. If you check Luke's web page, they discuss the dangers of midair collision with small pleasure crafts. Please compare the freedom of air space at CAFB with that of Luke, and I think you will see that CAFB offers a much less dangerous environment for the fighter aircraft.

The Melrose Bombing Range is just seconds away from CAFB, so there is a fuel economy advantage to keeping fighter planes at this base.

Please review the facts about CAFB and the opportunities that exist for using this vast open space for our military pilots to train in safety.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Chris Walters, PhD