

Mr. Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman, 2005 BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark St. Suite 600  
Arlington, Va 22202

DCN: 4244

May 22, 2005

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Dear Mr. Principi:

Greetings,

I am writing to you in reference to the proposed closure of Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis New Mexico. As a retired Air Force veteran living here in Clovis since 1985, I am imploring you to reconsider the closure of our base. I retired in this community in 1993 because of the close proximity of the base to my home and also the wonderful relationship that Cannon has with the city of Clovis.

Every year since I can remember, we've had an annual event that is sponsored by the city called Cannon Appreciation Day. The community is invited to this event and has always been a huge success. In addition, the annual Airshows always draw big crowds which further strengthen the bond between Clovis and Cannon.

The closure of Cannon AFB would have a definite impact on the community of Clovis as well as our neighboring town Portales. Although Clovis claims the base as its own, Portales also has some very real ties to Cannon. The Air Force has built a large housing community there which in turn means schooling for AF children, shopping by dependents and many of the active duty and their dependents go to the college (Eastern New Mexico University). So the closure would mean economic distress for not one but two communities in our area.

As a veteran, I am constantly on the base utilizing the facilities. I receive medications from the base pharmacy and my family uses the hospital for our medical needs. If the hospital were not here, we would be forced to go to a civilian hospital for any treatment. I know that my medicines can now be mailed to me but then that's just more money the government has to spend in order for me to get the medicines I require. The nearest Air Force base is in Albuquerque which is at least a 4 hour drive from Clovis. One of the reasons I chose to retire in this area is the medical care promised to me when I retired. Closing the base would in essence be like taking that benefit away from me and my family.

We look forward to your visit to our area so that we can show you how much we need and want our base when our city leaders will so you the technical benefits of keeping the base

Please consider our needs when making your decision as to whether to remove us from the BRAC list or not.

Sincerely,



Billy J. Penland  
Ssgt, USAF (retired)