

May 18, 2005

Janelle Moore  
2000 Vivian Avenue  
Clovis, NM 88101

BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear The Honorable Anthony J Principi; The Honorable James H. Bilbray; The Honorable Philip Coyle; Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr.; The Honorable James V. Hansen; General James T. Hill; General Lloyd W. Newton; The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner; and Brigadier General Sue E. Turner,

My name is Janelle Moore. I am a life-long resident of Clovis, New Mexico. I am writing you to express my fears and concerns about the recent decision to include Cannon AFB on the BRAC list for closure. There are several reasons for Cannon to remain open, such as ideal flying weather in this area, the lack of any encroachments on flying space or on the base itself, a bombing range minutes away, the ability to fly supersonic (once implemented), the great relationship between Cannon and the surrounding communities, and the presence of a large military retiree population. However, I have to say that one of my biggest concerns is for the welfare of our community that has supported military presence here for decades. The economic impact of closing Cannon AFB would be devastating. I admit that I don't think Clovis will dry up and blow away as some would say but the impact would be overwhelming. I really have a hard time understanding how the government thinks they will actually save money by putting hundreds of people out of jobs and probably putting many business owners out of business. There will be a huge trickle down effect. It is very depressing to think that all the progress our community has made over the past five years is all a waste. We have recently acquired a few popular chain businesses here due to the fact that the Clovis/Portales area was designated a microplex because of the population size. The loss of Cannon AFB would cause us to lose that designation. Members of our community were looking forward to the possibility of gaining more of these businesses. Now we face the possibility of losing what businesses we do have.

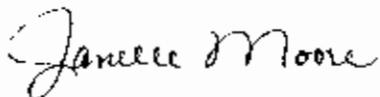
Buildings and homes will stand empty, property values will drop, which has already started. My husband is a contractor and within days of the list coming out, several potential homeowners backed out of going through with the construction of their new homes. We had already closed on the construction loan for one of these and are now obligated for a part of it with no sale to offset it. This will be the same situation for many, many other contractors in the area. The housing market was booming around here. Already everything is coming to a standstill. Contractors and realtors will be out of jobs. One elementary school in town is predominantly made up of military dependants. This school would likely close. Teachers will be out of jobs. Is this the start of saving money?

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I work for ENMRSH, Inc. ENMRSH is a non-profit organization that provided services to the severely handicapped. One of the very important services we provide is employment opportunities and training. Cannon AFB is our biggest provider of employment for our consumers. We have individuals that work at the base switchboard, the commissary, and the dining hall. In all, Cannon provides employment to over 100 people. Seventy-five of those are disabled. Where are we going to place these individuals? The way I see it, if the base closes, employment opportunities in Clovis, NM will be very scarce for everyone, not to mention for the disabled. The disabled are usually the last hired and the first to be let go. Even if we are able to place these consumers elsewhere in the community, it won't be at the competitive wages that Cannon AFB offers. Some of these individuals own homes and cars. What will happen when they lose their jobs? Those not having to rely on government assistance, will if this closure happens. Again, is this saving the government money?

When I was young, I remember others saying that they couldn't wait to graduate and get out of Clovis. They didn't feel that there was enough here. Since then Clovis has grown and become more prosperous. The kids today don't seem to feel that way as much. I have young children and chose to live here because Clovis is a good community in which to raise children. I don't want my children anticipating the day to move away from here. If Cannon AFB closes, it will take years and years for Clovis to recover. My children will be grown by then. It deeply saddens me to think of what will happen to Clovis if this closure goes through. The Clovis/Portales area is the only place I have ever lived.

Sincerely,



Janelle Moore